

MINUTES OF THE **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL** HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2018 AT 6.30 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON
SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT:

Councillors Mrs J A Jones (Mayor) Presiding
K Purchase (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors
Mrs C Bunday M Joyce
Mrs J Cleave Mrs S Kingdom
D Corney-Walker C N Parker
C Coyle-Moore M J Pilkington
R Hayes Ms L Roberts
M Hocking M Ryan
D Howe T Ward

In attendance: Mr P Rowe – Town Clerk
Mrs A Robinson – Committee Administrator

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor informed Members that since it was a Special Meeting of the Council conducted to consider specific matters of the Council; that under Standing Order item 34 she would suspend paragraph that part of the Standing Order 14 where it referred to 'Standing when Speaking' for the duration of the meeting only.

355. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R Jenks and Mrs L Sheffield.

356. INTERESTS

The Mayor and Councillors Mrs C Bunday and M Hocking gave notice of their intention to declare an interest in Minutes 359 and 360 respectively.

357. NEWTON'S PLACE PROJECT – FUNDING STRATEGY

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the Funding Strategy for Newton's Place. The Town Clerk referred to a summary paper, tabled at the meeting, in which he reported on the funding required to meet the total project costs for Newton's Place. He explained the rolling programme of funding applications that had been made to date and those that remained in the pipeline subject to specific timescales and how these would be incorporated as 'match funding' alongside the grant awarded from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The Clerk added that as part of the Round Two submission the HLF would seek assurances that all the funding was either secured or underwritten to the

required value before giving the Permission to Start the Delivery Phase. Given the protracted timescales and delays presented by some of the additional Funders it was likely that not all the additional funding would be in place in time and a delay in the Permission to Start from the HLF (as the primary funder) would cause subsequent delays in the project programme and may in fact incur greater construction costs if inflation were to continue to rise. Following a lengthy discussion Members felt it was very important to support the project and maintain the project timetable therefore, arising from detailed consideration, it was

RESOLVED that a) the Council would be prepared to Underwrite any shortfall in the match funding when the decision was reached by the Heritage Lottery Fund in June 2018 and
b) the Council would continue to pursue the current rolling programme of funding applications in order to meet the costs of the Newton's Place Project.

358. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following items 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.

359. **TOWN HALL, 9 DEVON SQUARE**

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the disposal of the Town Hall. Arising from the discussion, accordingly it was;

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to accept the financial offer received and proceed to dispose of the Town Hall, subject to contract.

The Mayor, Mrs J A Jones having previously declared an interest, took part in the discussion but abstained from the voting thereon.

360. **COMMON SEAL**

Following a proposition by the Mayor it was;

RESOLVED that the Common Seal of the Council be hereby affixed to the Contract in Minute 359 above or necessary to give effect to the resolution passed by the Council at the meeting.

361. **ACQUISITION OF ASSET**

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to update Members on the acquisition of an asset. Arising from the consideration, it was:

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk; in consultation with The Mayor, and the Chairmen of both the Policy & Resources Committee and Finance

& Audit Committee; be granted delegated authority to pursue the acquisition of the asset.

Councillors Mrs C Bunday and M Hocking having previously declared an interest, took part in the discussion but abstained from the voting thereon.

Chairman