

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH 2024** AT **7:00 P.M.** AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

PRESENT Councillor: L Cooke (Chairperson) – Presiding
M Ryan (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors: B Bailey
J Bradford
C Davieson
A Gibbs
A Hall (Deputy Mayor)

A Ineson
G Jennings
M Joyce
C Parker

Officers in attendance: Sam Scott - Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Sally Henley - Town Development Manager
Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor
Phil Rowe - Town Clerk

By Invitation: Representatives for Action For Climate in Teignbridge, Katie Benham and Yvonne Needham.

Also in attendance: Councillor Jackie Hook, Teignbridge District Council
Eloise Rokirilov, Chair, Newton Abbot & District Civic Society

474. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R Buscombe, D Corney-Walker and T Corney-Walker. An apology for absence was also received from Linda McGuirk, Principal Administrator

Councillors P Bullivant and J Cook did not attend.

475. INTERESTS

None declared.

476. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 7th February 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

477. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

478. PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF ACTION ON CLIMATE IN TEIGNBRIDGE

The Chairperson welcomed representatives of Action On Climate in Teignbridge (ACT) to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation to the Committee on ACT with the Arts Festival 22nd to 29th June 2024.

The representatives gave brief details of the background to the creation of ACT and displayed elements of its website. In particular that a website would be going live after Easter dedicated to the proposed arts festival to be held in Teignbridge, which would be focussed on Newton Abbot where the opening ceremony would be held on 22nd June at the Clocktower. The Festival would include events, performances, exhibitions, films, and workshops such as Nature on Your Doorstep in partnership with the Newton Abbot CIC at the Courtenay Centre. Many local people and groups were involved, including 25 artists and both the District and Town Councils.

Arising from questions put by Councillors, including whether ACT involved itself in commenting upon planning applications regarding biodiversity and carbon reduction, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their informative presentation following which the representatives left the meeting.

479. NEWTON ABBOT & GWR MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Committee received a reports on behalf of the Museum Curator and the Community Engagement Officer (previously circulated) on their activities over the past twelve months.

India Jolly, Museum Curator, noted highlights from the year, including: visitor numbers; income from donations and the Museum shop; bequest to refurbish the Signal Gantry; volunteer numbers; feedback from Trip Advisor, Google and public comment cards. For 2024 it was explained that there would be exhibitions on the Stover Canal and 100 Years of the High Street, along with changing displays.

Kate Green, the Community Engagement Officer, drew attention to highlights in her report including: school visits; home education groups; 'Make and Create' initiative; outreach work such as with inmates at the Channings Wood Prison; the 'Your Space' community area; and partnership working. For the forthcoming year focus would be on the potential Heritage Fund supported project to build an extension to the Museum store, which building would allow an improvement to the environmental control of the storage of all the Museum's artefacts together with the ability for the community to engage with conservation.

480. HERITAGE ASSET GROUP

The Committee was invited to appoint a representative to the Council's Heritage Asset Board. It was noted that the Chairperson of the Community & Heritage Committee would chair the Board and that a further Town Council representative was invited.

Arising from a discussion on the activity and governance arrangements for the Board it was agreed that Councillor Mike Joyce be appointed as the Council's representative on the Heritage Asset Board.

481. ACCOUNTS/INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The Committee received and noted an overview of income and expenditure for the Community & Heritage Committee, Newton In Bloom and the Museum for the period 1st April 2023 – 29th February 2024.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the period 1st April 2023 – 29th February 2024 for the:

- Community and Heritage Committee.
- Newton In Bloom.
- Museum, be hereby approved.

482. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk reported that he had that day received confirmation that the transfer to the Council of one half of the Hele Park allotments had been completed. Actions would be taken to let the plots as soon as practicable. Arising from a question, it was confirmed that positive discussions continued regarding vehicle access and transfer of the other half of the allotments to the Council.

483. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 12th June 2024.

The Meeting closed at: 7.43 p.m.

Chairperson.....Date.....