

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE 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 A Hall (Mayor)
J Bradford A Ineson
R Buscombe G Jennings
C Davieson C Parker (Deputy Mayor)
A Gibbs

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

By Invitation: Representative of the Environment Agency
Two representatives of the Westcountry Rivers Trust

Also in attendance: Two members of the public.

44. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairperson of the Community & Heritage Committee for the year 2024/2025.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Louise Cooke be elected Chairperson of the Community & Heritage Committee for the year 2024/2025.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A valid reason for absence was received on behalf of Councillor M Joyce. Apologies for absence were also received from Phil Rowe, Town Clerk and Linda McGuirk, Principal Administrator.

Councillor J Cook did not attend.

46. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice Chairperson of the Community & Heritage Committee for the year 2024/2025.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Ryan be appointed Vice Chairperson of the Community & Heritage Committee for the year 2024/2025.

47. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

48. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 27th March 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

49. **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee gave due consideration to the Terms of Reference for the Community & Heritage Committee, circulated prior to the meeting.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Community & Heritage Committee be hereby, approved and adopted subject to a minor amendment to point 5, to include the following working groups to the committee's sphere of activity:

- ❖ Biodiversity Working Group
- ❖ Emergency Pan Working Group
- ❖ Road Safety Working Group

50. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

51. **PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF WESTCOUNTRY RIVERS TRUST**

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of the Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation to the Committee on the River Lemon PPIP Project, a partnership project with the National Trust and the Environment Agency.

The presentation explained the following:

- ❖ The Environment Agency's (EA) 2022 Salmon Stock Assessment classifies the River Teign stock as "At Risk," the lowest conservation status, with no expected improvement until 2026.
- ❖ This project was built on successful models like Strategic Exe Weirs and Water for Growth, which took a strategic approach to fish migration improvements. This approach aimed to provide fish access to more habitats in a naturally timed manner.

- ❖ The investment of phased openings of the catchment would allow more salmon and other fish species to reach higher quality habitats crucial for different stages of their life cycles, thus boosting recruitment.
- ❖ The project will address migration challenges, including both upstream and downstream movements, as well as migration within the river.
- ❖ Sometimes an in-river barrier was completely impassable, but more often, structures created partial barriers. Some fish could pass but with high energy costs. Multiple barriers in a catchment cumulatively harm fish, causing physical degradation and energy loss, which reduced their chances of successful reproduction.
- ❖ By easing or removing these barriers, more fish could reach key spawning and feeding grounds, increasing their populations.
- ❖ All fish species need free movement to evade predators, avoid pollution, and find new territories for spawning and feeding. An ideal river habitat had complete connectivity, allowing both upstream and downstream migration, including eel, smolts, and resident brown trout.
- ❖ Some species were diadromous and needed to migrate between freshwater and marine environments to complete their life cycles. For example, salmon and sea trout were anadromous (spawning in freshwater), while eel was catadromous (spawning in saltwater).
- ❖ The following key factors were to be considered:
 - Position within the catchment (e.g., km of suitable upstream habitat, Strahler order of waterbody).
 - Severity of the barrier for fish movement (adult/juvenile, upstream/downstream), including hydraulic head, pool depth, material, and flow type.
 - Existing fish passage improvements and their efficacy.
 - Downstream risks, such as entrance to abstraction, damage, and predation.
- ❖ Each barrier was to be scored based on these criteria.
- ❖ The next steps were to:
 - Conduct SNIFFER (Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research) surveys on high-priority barriers.
 - Form a steering group
 - Secure future funding/match funding

The Chairperson invited questions from members. The following queries/comments were raised:

- ❖ What was the cost of the project?
- ❖ It was concerning that the EA had removed this service.
- ❖ Did working in partnership with the WRT provide different funding opportunities?
- ❖ What steps were to be taken to invite more volunteers to take part in the water quality monitoring aspects of the project?
- ❖ Was there to be any more work undertaken on the River Teign?
- ❖ Could QR codes be used to communicate updates?

The Town Development Manager encouraged the organisations to hold an event in Newton Abbot town centre (post General Election) to engage with the public on the project.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for a very interesting presentation and was looking forward to receiving a project update in due course.

52. **SUB- COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

Allotment Sub Committee 20th March 2024

The Deputy Town Clerk (DTC) reported the following, arising from consideration of the notes:

- ❖ A6(a) Blake's Field - Repairs to the gate had been successfully carried out by the FMO team.
- ❖ A6(f) Hele Park – A meeting had been held at Newton's Place whereby those on the waiting list had been allocated plots at the new Hele Park allotment site.
- ❖ A6(f) Hele Park – The transfer of land from Persimmon Homes to Newton Abbot Town Council was ongoing. The ecology report had now been received from Orbis and a revised planning application was currently being prepared for resubmission to TDC.

Persimmon had to apply to change part of the S106 Agreement to have the owner names changed to Newton Abbot Town Council, as the original had stated the owner as Teignbridge District Council.

Teignbridge District Council had also adopted the National Allotment Society's minimum standard for allotments going forward, which was a positive step for the allocation of future allotment sites.

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

RESOLVED that the notes of the Allotment Sub-Committee meeting held on 20th March 2024 be hereby noted

Events Sub-Committee 10th April 2024

The Chair of the Events Sub-Committee, Councillor Mike Ryan, commented on the following, arising from consideration of the minutes:

- ❖ E39 - NATC 50th Anniversary 1974 to 2024 – The event was well received and enjoyed by the attendees.
- ❖ E41 – Barham Cup 100th Anniversary – The Mayor was to be rowing in the upcoming event.
- ❖ E41 – Party in the Park - A quiz night was to be held on 8th July leading up to the event, proceeds of which were to be donated to the Mayor's charity.

53. **BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Consideration was given to the proposed Bus Service Improvement Plan, (appendix E, previously circulated).

Members made the following comments:

- ❖ That these improvements would not enable the buses to run regularly and remain on time as the entire system was so chaotic and unreliable!
- ❖ Current service levels should be improved prior to the proposed improvements being made.
- ❖ The level of proposed infrastructure was welcomed.
- ❖ Clarity was sought on the cost of the scheme and whether the benefit would be commensurate with the cost and upheaval involved in delivering the scheme.
- ❖ Would these changes affect all bus companies, or just Stagecoach?
- ❖ Request for a representative to attend the next meeting to seek clarification on this matter.

54. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TENDER**

The Town Development Manager and Deputy Town Clerk reported that following the tender process, (which carried out was in accordance with NATC's Financial Regulations), 3 tenders were received. Two of which were within budget, one of which was outside of the budget.

The chosen contractor was based in Dorset and called, Event Power Engineering. The website contained many lighting displays from other highly satisfied clients, two of which were Truro and St Ives.

Event Power Engineering both supplied and install, which was very unusual and completely new to NATC.

The Town Clerk has sought (and received) six references, all of which were glowing!

Arising from the consideration of the report it was:

RESOLVED that the decision made under delegated authority to appoint a Christmas Lights Contractor for the period 2024 to 2027 be hereby ratified.

55. **WHAT'S IN STORE PROJECT**

The DTC introduced the item by reminding members that the 'Permission to Start' the project was granted on 5th June and the first tranche of the Development Phase funding had been received today, (12th June).

The membership of the What's in Store Project Board was as follows:
Newton Abbot Town Council – Cllr Mike Ryan, Cllr Colin Parker, Cllr Phil Bullivant
Newton Abbot Museum Curator – Charlotte Dixon
Newton Abbot Town Clerk – Phil Rowe
Deputy Town Clerk/RFO – Sam Scott
Community Engagement Officer – Kate Green
Museum Volunteers – Cllr Gwen Jennings, Alandra Elendill
Newton Abbot Community Interest Company – Emily Farrell

Plus, specialists as and when invited.

Meetings were to be held in September, December and March for the Development Phase and the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair were to be elected and appointed at the first meeting.

Arising from the consideration of the What's in Store Project Terms of Reference, it was:

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference be hereby adopted as set out.

56. **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 periods 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, and 1st to 30th April 2024 for the following:

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the periods, 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, and 1st to 30th April 2024 for the:

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

57. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

58. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 16th October 2024.

The Meeting closed at: 8:35 p.m.

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