

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT**

Present: Councillors A Hall (Mayor) Presiding
C Parker (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: B Bailey A Gibbs
P Bullivant A Ineson
J Bradford M Joyce
R Buscombe M Ryan
D Corney-Walker L Wood
L Cooke N Yabsley
C Davieson

Officers in attendance: Phil Rowe Town Clerk
Sam Scott Deputy Town Clerk
Kevin Tagg FMO Team Leader

By invitation: Councillor D Palethorpe, Teignbridge District Council
Councillor Mrs J Hook, Teignbridge District Council

Also present: District Councillor Paul Parker and three members of the public

197. **WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

198. **APOLOGIES**

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors T Corney-Walker and G Jennings. Members **agreed** to approve the reasons for absence.

Arising from a question by a Member, Councillor D Corney-Walker gave an update on Councillor T Corney-Walker's recent operation and convalescence.

199. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

200. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 were received and signed as a correct record.

201. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In the absence of the questioner, the Mayor read the following question received from a member of the public:

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

In the interests of transparency, and accountability; openness and political education (something I have personally long supported) will the council actively consider the introduction of live streaming by zoom or whatever appropriate means and recording for posterity its meetings? This would be in line with many local authorities, and follow both Teignbridge District and Devon County Councils, but also an increasing number of Town Councils. e.g. Glastonbury and Frome. As one of, if not the leading Town Council in Devon it would seem to be an advantageous and visionary action in the interests of a healthy democracy.

Arising from consideration of the question, it was

RESOLVED that the Council's officers submit a report to the Policy & Resources Committee on the implications of live-streaming Council meetings.

202. PRESENTATIONS

A. The Mayor welcomed Teignbridge District Councillor David Palethorpe to the meeting and invited him to update the Council on issues affecting Newton Abbot within his remit as Portfolio Holder for Assets, Estates, Car Parking, Economic Development and Communications.

Councillor Palethorpe reported on the following topics:

- Negotiations with the Newton Abbot CIC regarding leases and the futures of the Buckland and Courtenay Centres;
- Discussions with the Chamber of Commerce and Newton Abbot businesses on potential UK Shared Prosperity Fund schemes;
- The Queen Street engineering project;
- Future plans for the Market Hall and Square, including relocating businesses in the former Post Office building;
- 'White Boxing' the former Oggy Oggy and Edinburgh Woolen Mill premises;
- Future High Street Fund (FHFSF) funded demolition of former industrial buildings at Bradley Lane in preparation for a social housing scheme on the site, together with plans to redirect the historic Vicary Mill Leat.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Palethorpe for his informative presentation and invited Members to ask questions.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to Councillor Palethorpe for the presentation and asked questions on the following:

- Issues regarding the Remembrance Sunday Parade and access to Queen Street;
- Working in partnership;
- Enforcing design codes on developers;
- The ability of TDC to enforce conditions upon ASDA to charge for parking at their store;
- Can TDC do anything about the 700 empty homes in Newton Abbot?
- Was demolition of the Buildings in Bradely Lane the only answer?

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

- Responsibility for maintenance of non-highway elements in the remodelled Queen Street;
- Any progress on reletting the empty Wilko building in Market Walk?
- Periods of free parking on Sundays.

Upon dealing with Members' questions, Councillor Palethorpe left the meeting.

B. The Mayor introduced Mr Kevin Tagg, the recently appointed Facilities Maintenance Officer Team Leader and invited him to make a presentation on the work of the Team and their plans to deliver on the Council's Wellbeing priorities.

With the aid of slides and images, Mr Tagg presented information under the following headings:-

- The Team;
- Areas of Responsibility;
- Weekly Work;
- Work to Date;
- Planned Route;
- Future Plan.

The Mayor thanked Mr Tagg for his detailed presentation and invited Members to ask questions.

Councillors expressed their gratitude to Mr Tagg for the presentation and asked questions on the following:

- Work carried out on the Balls Corner roundabout and potential for a statement structure to be erected;
- Balance between clearing vegetation and requirements to encourage biodiversity;
- Responsibility for allotments areas;
- How Councillors can refer matters for attention to the Team;
- An area in College Ward needing works carried out;
- The Town Council delivering services previously carried out by the principal councils and the effect of double taxation;
- Deployment of the Citymaster vehicle.

Upon addressing Members' questions, Mr Tagg left the meeting

203. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Council noted that as at Friday 13th September 2024 Mr J Cook had not attended any meetings of the Council within a six-month period. Consequently, under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1972 Mr Cook ceased to be a Member of Newton Abbot Town Council on that date.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

204. REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Mayor invited County and District Councillors to provide a report on their recent activity on behalf of Newton Abbot.

District and County Councillor J Bradford reported on issues in which she has had direct involvement:

- Attended the Children's Overview & Scrutiny meeting.
- Received various complaints from the public regarding traffic problems, parking and potholes. Councillor Bradford referred to the need for everyone to report such issues using the County Council's online service.

District and County Councillor P Bullivant reported on issues in which he has had direct involvement:

- In his role as Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Services would submit reports to the Town Clerk to circulate;
- Contract had been let to implement measures in relation to parking issues near the Library.

District Councillor R Buscombe referred to his Portfolio responsibilities for housing and in particular the T100 Project. Additionally, he had been dealing with issues relating to Bradley Lane and contractor issues at Hele Park and The Fairways.

District Councillor M Ryan reported on his delight that a retrospective planning application had been refused in Haldon Rise.

District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook had forwarded her report in advance of the meeting which dealt with the following:

- Council Strategy 'One Teignbridge' being consulted upon for eight weeks;
- Green Business Grant;
- Teignbridge Climate Hub website;
- Deport Masterplan and Fleet Decarbonisation EV charging works for Forde House and the Multi-Story car park;
- Newton Abbot Leisure Centre National Grid connection;
- Garden Communities – Flood Risk and Resilience Study.

The Mayor thanked the District and County Councillors for their reports as they provided a valuable insight into various issues within Newton Abbot.

Councillor Laura Wood reported on her recent shadowing of the Newton Abbot Security Trust team whilst carrying out their 'Hotspot' patrols on Friday 13th September between the hours of 6.00 p.m. and 8.45 p.m. Councillor Wood undertook to provide a summary of her experience to all Members.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

205. **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on engagements which he had attended since the 17th July 2024. He didn't highlight any one particular event as he had enjoyed everyone of them.

206. **STAFFING**

Consideration was given to a recommendation from the Staffing Committee, in accordance with minute numbers 24/07(145a) and 24/07(145b), that:

- a) The Council creates a new post of Administrative Officer (Green Spaces) at SCP 20-23;
- b) the Staffing Committee authorises the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Finance & Audit Committee and the Mayor in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, to employ a temporary member of staff to set up and populate the asset management software for a period of up to 3 months at the cost of £7,000 to be made available from reserves, the action to be reported to the Council.

RESOLVED that minute 24/07/145 be hereby approved and adopted.

207. **PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES**

- a) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on 16th July 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce, were received and approved.
- b) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Staffing Committee** held on 31st July 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor R Buscombe were received and approved (with the exception of minute 145).
- c) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee**, held on 6th August 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.
- d) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Planning Committee**, held on 27th August 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Joyce were received and approved.
- e) The Minutes of the Meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee** held on 4th September 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor D Corney-Walker were received and approved.

208. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

209. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7:00pm.

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....

Meeting closed at 20:35 hours.

Chairperson (Mayor).....Date.....

Chairperson (Mayor) initials.....
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