

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE **COMMUNITY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 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 (Deputy Mayor)
P Bullivant G Jennings
C Davieson C Parker
A Gibbs

Councillor N Yabsley attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Sam Scott – Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
Linda McGuirk – Principal Administrator

By Invitation: Emma Magee - Representative of the Environment Agency
Niki Warner - TDC Emergency Planning Officer
Richard Rainbow - TDC Emergency Planning Officer (flooding)

Present Emily Farrell – Newton Abbot Community Interest Company
10 x Members of the public

390. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J Bradford, R Buscombe, D Corney-Walker (Mayor), T Corney-Walker and M Joyce. Apologies for absence were also received from Communications Advisor, Nigel Canham, Town Development Manager - Sally Henley and Town Clerk, Phil Rowe.

Councillor J Cook did not attend.

391. INTERESTS

None declared.

392. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Community and Heritage Committee held on 18th October 2023 were received and signed as a correct record.

393. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

394. **PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

The Chairperson welcomed a representative of the Environment Agency (EA) to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation to the Committee. A PowerPoint presentation was displayed to support the verbal presentation. The presentation gave an overview of the work of the organisation and its current projects:

- EA projects, Dartmoor Headwaters, and Fish Passage – Parke, Teign Fish Barriers, Chipley/Bradley and the River Lemon.
- Challenges of migrating fish in the River Lemon, including the pass ability for salmon in various sections of the river.
- River Lemon is currently failing fish due to low flow and insufficient water depths; this project intends to remedy the situation.
- Outline design phase – considering the installation of a series of marginal berm structures and stone boulder pre-barrages creating a 2-stage channel which will increase water depths during low flows.
- There is evidence of salmon in the River Lemon, but not at expected levels.
- Bradley Lane development – EA working with developers to improve the stretch of the river within the development.
- EA has agreed a multi-agency collaborative solution at Bakers Park, Bradley Weir, the ford at Oghwell Mill.
- Holbeam Dam is an EA flood defence asset, looking at improving the fish and eel passage through an eel ramp and pre-barrage, as part of the Holbeam Dam project.
- Riparian tree planting.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for the informative presentation and invited Members to ask any questions.

Members raised questions about:

- Salmon spawning locations.
- Future water levels projection and the impact of the EA fish passage projects on flood defences.
- Salmon reach on the River Lemon.
- Longevity of the berms and barrages.
- Pollution issues.
- Ownership of riverbed.

The Chairperson invited the representative of the Environment Agency to return to a future meeting to report on the project progress.

395. **EMERGENCY PLAN**

A. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives from the District Council's Emergency Planning team to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation to the Committee. A PowerPoint presentation on Community Resilience was displayed to support the verbal presentation. The presentation gave an overview of:

- How the Emergency Planning team can support the Town Council to establish a community emergency plan.
- Community resilience.
- What should a resilient community be preparing for.
- Types of disruption.
- Why Community resilience is important.
- Community Resources register.
- How communities understand risk and how they can react.
- What happens once the plan is created – shared with emergency services.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for the informative presentation and invited Members to ask any questions.

Discussion took place about the types of risk which may affect a community and the importance of community engagement to create a plan. Members agreed that it was important for the Town Council to facilitate the creation of a Community Emergency Plan for Newton Abbot.

B. Members discussed establishing a Community Emergency Plan Working Group. Arising from the discussion, it was:

RESOLVED to establish a Community Emergency Plan working group, to include Councillors and members of the community.

Councillors A Hall, M Ryan, G Jennings, P Bullivant and C Parker expressed an interest in being part of the working party. It was agreed to start publicity to attract members of the public to join the working group.

The representatives of the Emergency Planning team assured members they will be happy to support the development of the plan and will attend future meetings.

396. **SUB COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES/FORUMS**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Events Sub Committee held on 17th January 2024, as presented by the Chairperson, Councillor M Ryan, were received and approved; and

The Notes of the meeting of the Road Safety Working Group held on 6th February 2024, as tabled at the meeting, were noted.

397. **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 – 31st December 2023.

A Councillor asked a question regarding income and budget setting and the balance remaining within the C&H Committee budget. No further questions were raised.

The RFO reminded members that the Newton In Bloom budget for 2024/25 had been increased to accommodate a new floral display contractor.

Members were please to note the income generated by the museum. The RFO asked members to consider carrying forward the income generated by the Museum to the 2024/25 museum budget heading.

Accordingly, it was:

RESOLVED

- a) that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st December 2023 for the:
 - Community and Heritage Committee.
 - Newton In Bloom.
 - Museum, be hereby approved.

- b) that the income generated by the Museum is carried forward to the Museum budget heading 2024/25.

398. LATE CORRESPONDENCE

None.

399. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27th March 2024.

The Meeting closed 8:00pm

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