

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Heritage, Culture and Community Committee

Thursday 7th July 2022 at 7.00 pm

The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple

Present: Councillors:

J Hunt, M Lovering and J Orange, L York and J Coates

Also in attendance:

Mrs Megan Sanders, Assistant Town Clerk (Clerk to meeting)

Mr Rob Ward, Town Clerk

Members of the Public: 2

Apologies for absence:

V Elkins and Fowler

**1 Election of chairperson for the Municipal Year 2022-23**

Cllr M Lovering was nominated by Cllr J Orange seconded by Cllr J Hunt. Approved: (NC)

**2 Election of the Vice-Chairperson for the municipal year 2022-23**

Cllr J Coates was nominated by Cllr J Hunt and seconded by Cllr J Orange. Approved: (NC)

**3 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved from Cllr V Elkins (Health), Cllr M Fowler (Health).

**4 Dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests.**

Cllr J Hunt, L York, M Lovering and J Orange as a member of North Devon District Council, have a dispensation under SO66 to discuss and vote on any item on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

**5 Minutes of the Heritage Culture & Community Committee meeting held on 9th September 2021**

The Clerk apologised for the incorrect membership on the agenda due to a technical error which will be corrected for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (3.0.2abs)

**6 Barnstaple Arts Festival proposal for May 2023**

Cllr M Lovering proposed, and Cllr J Coates seconded to move item 7 to item 6. Approved (NC)

Under Barnstaple Town Council Standing Order 85 - Two members of the public, Dawn Brookes-Ensor and Stella Levy, spoke in relation to

agenda item 7 now 6. Dawn explained that the concept of the arts festival was to create the same model as the Bradworthy arts festival (which was very successful) here in Barnstaple. It would consist of an arts trail which would stretch across at least 11 venues, who have already shown an interest in the project, and each would be a centre of excellence. They would consider a bus service to help with travel to various venues and lessen the environmental impact. The proposed dates are the 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (half term week) and would be managed by a social enterprise comprised of the interested parties. The festival is expected to attract large numbers of visitors and increase revenue for local businesses. They are asking for grant money to help with AA signs and leaflet printing to help publicise the event. If the festival is successful, they wish to make it an annual event.

Cllr J Hunt asked if they had looked into District Councillor grants? They had not and the clerk was asked to share this information with them.

The Town Clerk asked about the social enterprise and when it was set up if they would share their constitution and other information with the town council. They agreed they would.

Cllr M Lovering asked for a break down of the costs that they were hoping to receive. They said they would supply this.

It was also suggested that they speak to officers about potential venue space the Town Council could offer for the project.

The councillors thanked them for attending the meeting and speaking with them.

\*\*The two members of the public left the meeting at 7.21pm and did not return\*\*

After further discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: To note the information received about the Barnstaple Arts Festival and await further information. Approved (NC)

## **7 Budget monitoring report.**

The Town Clerk explained that the section of the budget relating to St Anne's was an agreed set cost. He went on to explain that any underspend from last years budget had been used to help manage the precept and has been carried over to earmarked reserves.

It was:

RESOLVED: To note the budget monitoring report. Approved (NC).

**8 Request from the Barnstaple History Group to use the Guildhall for an exhibition in August 2022**

Councillors considered the exhibition to be beneficial to the community and would require little input from Town Council staff. After the big success of the previous exhibition which was about the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D Day landings it was:

RESOLVED: That the Barnstaple History Group's request be granted.  
Approved (NC)

**9 Proposal from a local artist for a joint project focussed on the Oliver Buildings**

The Councillors discussed the proposal and were concerned that the costs suggested were high and hard to justify for one individual's project. Concerns were also raised about the amount of work it would make for town council staff. Councillors felt that they were not able to commit to such an ambitious proposal at this time. The clerk was asked to suggest to the artist alternative sources of funding and make her aware of item 6 and item 10 on the agenda which may be of interest to her.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED: That the proposal be refused. Approved (NC)

**10 Cultural Strategy currently being developed for Barnstaple**

The clerk explained that the strategy was being developed by North Devon Council and led by the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon. It would cover the whole of North Devon but would also focus on Barnstaple. It would allow the town to access funding to support arts and culture in the town. The clerk explained that they had not yet received the entire strategy, but she would be attending a meeting next week to find out more information. Councillors asked that the clerk keep the committee informed of any further developments.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED: To note the report. Approved (NC)

**11 Update on the Barnstaple Town Council Heritage Programme from the Assistant Town Clerk**

The councillors complimented the attached documents regarding the plans for the development of the learning programme, they were impressed by the level of detail. They asked that the Heritage Assistant be commended for her hard work and their thanks be passed onto to her. The Assistant Town Clerk informed the committee of the various activities that had taken place since January 2022. The heritage team has accommodated three school visits, a trial re-enactment, various tours and visits from interested member of the public. The team has been taking the opportunity to trial various activities and gather feedback to help further develop the heritage programme.

Cllr L York asked about safeguarding and risk assessments.

The clerk explained that they were produced in conjunction with the schools to ensure everyone was aware of their responsibilities. The committee discussed potential digital opportunities and the need to make everything as accessible as possible.

It was:

RESOLVED: To note the report. Approved (NC)

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

Chairman.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....