

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.00 pm
The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple

Present: Councillors:

Cllrs V Monk, V Elkins, A Windsor, I Roome, R Knight, J Phillips, J Hunt, J Carter, J Wilsher, M Lovering, A Rennles (Chair), L York (Deputy Mayor), P Leaver, A Shah, S Jusef, V Nel, J Slee, R Mack, J Coates, J Orange, G Marchewka and Fowler

Also in attendance:

R Ward, Town Clerk

N Hampson, Events & Communications Officer

Members of the Public:

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs T Clarkson and E George

38 Apologies for absence.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved. (NC)

39 Dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests.

Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, J Phillips, M Lovering, L York, R Mack & J Orange as members 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.

Cllr I Roome as a member of Devon County 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.

40 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13th June 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 13th June 2022, are approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

41 Mayor's Announcements.

The Mayor announced that Councillor Jane Wilsher had passed away last week, a tribute was led by Rev D Fletcher.

Councillors recalled her dedication to the role of Town Councillor that she held for eleven years and that she had previously been Mayoress to her husband in 1998 to 2000. She was described as a lovely person, friend, as fearless on the fair rides, having a dry sense of humour and having respect for the staff team and Beadles.

She will be missed by all.

The Christmas Fayre for 2022 is on 1st December. Due to works to the Pannier Market this year we will be on The Square and also it will be a combined event with the lights switch on. The event is being planned with Town Centre Management and will include activities on The Strand and the High Street.

The Mayor thanked the staff team for the way they efficiently managed the recent illegal encampment in Rock Park. The people were moved on within a couple of days and any damage repaired very quickly.

The Town Council is having a stand at the Pilton Green Man Festival and volunteers are still needed to help.

Recent events include:

- Exeter Armed Forces Day, also attended by the Barnstaple Youth Marching Band who were a credit to the town.
- The Pathway Pride Festival.
- The opening of the new Tarka Leisure Centre.
- A visit to Barnstaple U3A (University of the 3rd Age).
- The opening of a new Pizza restaurant on Boutport Street.
- Holsworthy Pretty Maids fair.
- Exeter Lamas Day.

The Mayor's Chain and Medallion is planned to be on display at the Museum in August for an exhibition about the Partridge Family along with other Barnstaple Town Council Items, loaned for the exhibition.

42 Report from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

Councillors received and noted the Police report, Insp Wills was not able to attend the meeting.

Councillors discussed concerns about the current situation with reporting crimes through the Police 101 system and how long it can take to get through on the phone, there are reports of taking up to an hour to get through. The email system can take a great deal of time, days, to get a response.

As a result of this it was felt that a lot of crime for residents and business is probably going unreported.

RESOLVED: To write to the Police Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable to ask what is going to be done to improve the response times to calls through 999 and 101 and to ask for a report on waiting times for calls (NC)

43 Reports from Devon County and North Devon District Councillors.

Devon County Council

Cllr I Roome reported:

- HATOC has approved the Roundswell bus gate as per the planning conditions for the development.
- Devon County Council is currently forecasting a £40M deficit in the current financial year.
- The recent Ofsted report for Children's Services reported

concerns about staffing issues.

- He has been meeting with Joy Street traders about antisocial behaviour issues and has since undertaken a community impact statement with the police to support convictions because the magistrates court in Exeter tend to be unaware of the impact of the behaviour in Barnstaple.

North Devon Council

Cllr L York

- NDC Licencing have closed down Rumours nightclub in Boutport St, there was a delay due to the appeal process.

Cllr J Orange

- A litter pick is planned for Pilton and Newport on 23rd July.

Councillors Ashraf Shah and Robbie Mack left at 8.00pm

44 **Adoption of Committee Minutes**

Committee	Date	Page Numbers
Staffing Committee	23 May 2022	007 to 008
Finance & General Purposes	23 May 2022	009 to 011
Planning & Transportation	26 May 2022	012 to 014
Environment Committee	4 July 2022	021 to 023

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the committee meetings and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted in accordance with Standing Order 24. (NC)

45 **Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies and determine any actions arising.**

None received

46 **Councillor representatives to Statutory or standing Committees of the Town Council.**

It was noted that:

Cllr V Nel has resigned from the Planning & Transportation Committee with immediate effect.

Cllr J Phillips has requested to join the Planning & Transportation Committee.

47 **Town Council Summer Close Down Week**

It was noted that the Town Council office will be closed for the week of the 22nd to 26th August in order to focus on the management of files administration processes and to undertake some health & safety works.

48 **Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk reported:

Recent appointment of Neil Hampson, as Events and Communications

Officer

1. Apologies for absence.

- a. Apologies for absence need to be with the committee clerk by 5.00pm on the day of the meeting, Standing Order 57 actually states 12.00 noon and a reason for absence is required.
- b. The six month rule requires apologies and the reason to be accepted by the meeting.

2. Motions to meetings.

- a. Seven clear working days in advance of a meeting.
- b. It is the Town Clerk's decision, and Book of motions is kept and will soon be made available on the Town Council website.
- c. Amendment during meeting must be related to and relevant to original motion.
- d. Any questions / concerns please ask.
- e. Support also available directly to Councillors via the Devon Association of Local Councils

3. Contacting the Town Council

- a. The office reception is open between 10.00am to 3.00pm
- b. Please can all enquiries about Bookings, open space issues and meeting apologies be sent to admin@barnstapletowncouncil.gov.uk or 01271 373311

4. Guildhall Renovation Project

- a. Proposals for the renovation are coming together and first draft drawings now available and will circulated soon.

5. Barnstaple Regeneration Board

- a. The Future High Street Fund main subject at present
- b. Discussions re the use and development of 36/37 Boutport St
- c. Cultural Strategy
- d. Redevelopment of the Bridge Buildings
- e. Town Centre activity

6. Finance Reports

- a. Please can any questions on the F&GP finance reports be with the Town Clerk by midday of meeting to give time for answers.

49 To consider any questions asked by:

49a Members of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 25

None received

49b Public registered electors in the town in accordance with Standing Order 85.

None received

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: