

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Monday 19th June 2023 at 7.00 pm
The Shambles, Guildhall Arches, High St, Barnstaple

Present: Councillors:

Cllrs V Monk, V Elkins, J Phillips, M Lovering, L York, P Leaver, J Coates, J Orange, I Williams, L Dawson, G Kennedy, D Clayton, J Challis, C Brown, K Stevenson, C Horrell, K York and M Pullen

Also in attendance:

R Ward, Town Clerk
Insp A Wills, Devon & Cornwall Police
Insp J Lester, Devon & Cornwall Police
Cllr I Roome, Devon County Council

Members of the Public:0

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs J Hunt, A Shah, S Jusef, T Clarkson, G Marchewka and Fowler

20 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

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

21 To receive any dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests.

Cllrs J Phillips, M Lovering, L York, P Leaver, J Orange, D Clayton & K Stevenson 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.

22 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 15th May 2023 are approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairperson.

23 Mayor's Announcements.

The Mayor reported on the follow invents that she had attended:

- Taw U3A Coronation Tea.
- Private viewing of the Eco Structure Gardens.
- Shillings Day with Deputy Mayor and Senior Beadle.
- Northam Mayor Introduction.
- Bideford Mayor Choosing.
- Petroc College 70th Birthday Celebration.
- Vintage Citroen Car Club Event.
- The opening of Dingles Coffee Bar on Gammon Walk.

Upcoming events:

- The Armed Forces Day event in Rock Park Saturday 24th June.
- Repair Café at St John’s Community Centre 8th July
- Park Yoga in Rock Park Sundays 9.30am
- The funeral of Andy Shiner on 3rd July.

24 Report from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.

Inspector A Wills had presented a written report in advance of the meeting giving details of incident data from the last month relative to the same period the previous year.

Councillors thanked Insp Wills for his report and asked questions about:

- The current E-Scooter trial.
- Outcomes from Operation Loki the month of intensive policing focusing on ASB in the Town Centre.
- Enforcement of 20mph speed limits if more were to be implemented in residential areas.
- Concerns re the way some people cycle in the High St when it’s busy.
- The use of Queen Street Car Park at night by “boy racers”.
- People street drinking within the town centre.

Cllr V Monk left the meeting at this point.

25 To receive reports from Devon County and North Devon District Councillors.

Devon County Council

Cllr I Roome

- Yeo Valley School has achieved a Good rating after its latest assessment.
- The new Traffic Order for Maiden Street will be implemented soon and the bollards installed.
- The Link Centres report to DCC members expected in July.

26 To receive and adopt the minutes of committees and the resolutions contained therein as shown below, and to consider any questions on reports contained in the minutes of committees, asked by members of the Council in accordance Standing Order 24:

The minutes and resolutions of the following committee meetings were received and considered and it was resolved to adopt them en-bloc (NC)

Committee	Date
Planning & Transportation	18 th May 2023

27 To appoint Councillor representatives to statutory or standing committees of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: To note that Cllr V Monk has requested to stand down from the Planning & Transportation Committee (NC)

28 To confirm the current representatives to outside bodies, and to fill any vacancies.

RESOLVED: To approve the appointment of the following Councillors to represent the Town Council on outside bodies (NC).

Representatives to Outside Bodies 2023-24	
Outside Body	Approved Representative(s)
Barnstaple Almshouses	Town Mayor (ex-officio) Cllr V Elkins Cllr L Dawson
Pilton United Charities	Cllr V Elkins Cllr J Phillips
Barnstaple Bridge Trust	Town Mayor (ex-officio) Cllr J Hunt Cllr C Horrell Cllr M Fowler
North Devon Athenaeum	Town Mayor (ex-officio) Cllr M Fowler
Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC)	County Committee – Cllr J Phillips Larger Councils – Cllr L York
North Devon Archaeological	Cllr L Dawson
Taw & Torridge Estuary Forum	Cllr M Fowler
Tarka Rail Association	Cllr C Brown
Tarka Line Forum	Cllr C Brown
Town Centre Management	Cllr G Marchewka
Davie Trust	Cllr J Coates Cllr J Orange
North Devon Voluntary Services	Cllr L York
Pilton House Trust	Cllr J Hunt Cllr J Orange

Museum of North Devon Community Panel	Town Mayor (ex officio)
Plastic Free Barnstaple Steering Committee	Cllr T Clarkson
One Barnstaple	Cllr J Hunt
North Devon Councillor Advocate scheme	Vacant
Barnstaple Twinning Association	Cllr G Kennedy
Rural Market Town Group	Cllr P Leaver
Barnstaple in Bloom	Cllr D Clayton

29 To consider reports (if any) from Town Council representatives to outside bodies and determine any actions arising.

None received.

30 To receive and consider the Year-end Internal Audit Report 7th June 2023.

The Internal Audit Report was received and noted (NC).

31 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-23 - Annual Governance Statement

The requirements of the statement were considered, and it was:

RESOLVED: The Barnstaple Town Council has reviewed its system of internal control in the year ended 31st March 2023 and considered any findings; (NC) and

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council approves the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2023 as shown at Section 1 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return. (NC)

32 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-23 - Accounting Statements and Submission Draft

The accounting statements were considered, It was:

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council has considered the accounting statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 as shown at Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return; (NC) and

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council approves the accounting statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 as shown at Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return: (NC) and

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council authorises the Chairperson to sign the accounting statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 as shown at Section 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return; (NC) and

RESOLVED: That Barnstaple Town Council approves the Annual

33 Barnstaple Bus Station Building and Public Toilets

The Town Clerk explained to Councillors that discussions have been taking place with North Devon District Council officers about a potential Asset Transfer to the Town Council of the Bus Station building, that was closed three years ago by NDDC.

The closure has included the public toilets which has significantly inconvenienced bus users, both BTC and NDDC have received complaints about the loss of the toilets.

One of the reasons for the closure was due to serious anti-social behaviour in and around the toilets.

The Town Clerk asked Councillors for their thoughts and whether they approve the principal of proceeding with negotiations.

Councillors made the following points:

- Are there potential revenue streams to support the running of the building, including:
 - o A café.
 - o Charging for the toilets.
 - o Charging Stagecoach for use of the space.
 - o Bus ticket sales.
- Are there Government funds available for works to the building?
- Could the space be used to provide a “Safe Space” for vulnerable people?
- Will the Police Design out Crime service be used?
- A feasibility of the project needs to be undertaken and the Town Council needs to be prepared to walk away if the project is not deliverable.
- This needs to fit with the emerging Town Council vision and strategy.
- A building condition survey needs to be undertaken.

RESOLVED: for the Town Clerk to continue negotiations with NDDC and to undertake a condition survey of the Bus Station Building (NC)

34 20's Plenty for Devon Campaign

Totnes Town Council have been contacting parish and town councils across the county to gauge support for a Devon-wide campaign to get DCC to change their default policy on the implementation of 20mph speed limits.

As part of their campaign they are providing the following information:

- There is increasing evidence that residents (and voters) want a 20mph default speed limit. They are fed up with intimidatory and anti-social driving, air and noise pollution and in particular they are concerned for their own safety and that of their families.
- There is now a considerable amount of research showing that the introduction of 20mph limits can be low cost and bring wide benefits, including fewer road casualties, less air and noise pollution, and increased walking and cycling.
- At present, Devon County Council's process for introducing 20mph limits is expensive, slow, ad-hoc and village-by-village. We are asking them to change their speed management policy to make 20mph affordable for local communities.
- Devon and Cornwall Police have indicated that they are supportive of 20mph limits. Even without their support, the evidence suggests that the imposition of 20mph limits means that drivers voluntarily reduce their speeds by up to 6 mph on faster roads.

As part of the campaign they are asking local councils to:

1. pass a motion in support of the campaign; and
2. write to Devon County Council to request they change their default policy.

RESOLVED: to express support for the campaign and to write to Devon County Council to ask them to change their default policy (NC).

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: