

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Council held at G107, 1st Floor, South West Institute Development Building, Petroc, Barnstaple - Petroc College on Wednesday, 4th October, 2023 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Hunt (Chair)

Councillors Biederman, Bulled, Bushell, Cann, Davies, Denton, Haworth-Booth, Jones, Jusef, R Knight, C Leaver, P Leaver, Lovering, Maddocks, Maskell, Milton, Norman, Orange, Patrinos, Prowse, Quinn, Roome, L. Spear, Stevenson, Turton, Walker, Whitehead, Wilkinson, Williams, Wilson, Worden and York

Officers:

Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive, Senior Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and Senior Planning Policy Officer

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bell, Bishop, Clayton, Crabb, D. Knight, Lane, Lethaby, Renshaw and Topps.

44. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2023 (ATTACHED)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2023 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

45. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Chair's Events

The Chair provided an update on the recent events that she had attended in her capacity as Chair of Council. She advised that she had attended the High Sheriff's inauguration at Exeter Cathedral and had visited a lovely gentleman who was celebrating his 103rd birthday, who had been a prisoner of war and had his diary printed.

46. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY OR WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIR

There was no business brought forward by or with the consent of the Chair.

47. REPLIES TO ANY QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC AND/OR TO RECEIVE PETITIONS UNDER PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURES RULES, PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9 OF THE

CONSTITUTION

There were no questions submitted by the Public and/or Petitions received under Part 4 Council Procedure Rules, Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Constitution.

48. TO CONSIDER MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION

(a) To consider the following notice of motion from Councillor Patrinos

Councillors Biederman, C. Leaver, Maskell and Roome declared an other registerable interest (disclosed for transparency reasons only) in this notice of motion as members of Devon County Council.

Councillor Patrinos presented his notice of motion to Council.

It was moved by Councillor Patrinos and seconded by Councillor Walker that the notice of motion be adopted.

Council was advised that Devon County Council's (DCC) Cabinet decision had been called in for scrutiny and the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations would be considered at DCC Cabinet meeting on 11 October 2023.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that Devon County Council be requested to rethink their decision to close the service across Devon and seeks a way to replace the mobile library vans; and
- (b) that DCC explores future possibilities of the mobile service which will further enhance lives for our rural communities.

(b) To consider the following notice of motion from Councillor Wilkinson

Councillor Wilkinson presented his notice of motion to Council and he advised that Sally-Ann Hart, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group had requested Councils to support the calling of a dedicated Minister for the Coast. He therefore amended the notice of motion to include that "the Local Government Association Special Interest Group request for the calling of a dedicated Minister for the Coast be supported."

The amended notice of motion was moved by Councillor Wilkinson, who took on board that the dedicated Minister also include "rivers and fresh water", which was seconded by Councillor Roome.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council express its support to there being an immediate independent review of all Water Authorities.

- (b) That the Local Government Association Special Interest Group request for the calling of a dedicated Minister for the Coast be supported and that this also include rivers and fresh water.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest was announced:

Councillor Spear – Item 12 “Making of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan”, other registerable interest (disclosed for transparency reasons only) as a Member of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

50. CHAIR'S REPLIES TO ANY QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL BY MEMBERS SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4, COUNCIL PROCEDURES RULES, PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE CONSTITUTION

There were no questions received by Members submitted under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, Paragraph 10 of the Constitution.

51. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Council considered and noted a report by the Leader of the Council (circulated previously) regarding work that had been undertaken since the last Council meeting.

Councillor Roome advised that since the publication of the report, the Government had announced that Torbay would be receiving £20m from the Levelling Up Fund. He expressed disappointment that funding had not been announced for Ilfracombe, as Ilfracombe Central ward had a high level of deprivation and poverty and that there needed to be a level playing field across Devon and the South West.

Councillor Spear advised that the Policy Development Committee was carrying out a review of dentistry as part of its work programme and was seeking a representative from the Dentist Forum to attend.

Councillor Maskell advised that she was a member of Devon County Council’s Adult Health and Social Care scrutiny Committee and would welcome input from North Devon Council in relation to dentistry.

Members expressed their concern regarding the proposed closure of the A361 North Devon Link Road, with effect from 11 October 2023, with traffic being diverted through Landkey, Swimbridge and Filleigh in relation to the high volume of traffic travelling along this route and potential accidents. The Leader agreed to make representations to the Police regarding the closure of the A361 and request that the diversion route be monitored.

It was moved by Councillor Prowse and seconded by Councillor Roome “that it was disappointing to lose the opportunity to utilise the Housing Infrastructure Funding to unlock other development opportunities in Ilfracombe where it was desperately needed and that a cross party letter be sent to the Treasury outlining this together

with the Council's disappointment that Ilfracombe was not on the Government's list of towns awarded levelling up funding announced over the weekend."

RESOLVED that it was disappointing to lose the opportunity to utilise the Housing Infrastructure Funding to unlock other development opportunities in Ilfracombe where it was desperately needed and that a cross party letter be sent to the Treasury outlining this together with the Council's disappointment that Ilfracombe was not on the Government's list of towns awarded levelling up funding announced over the weekend.

52. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Council noted that no questions had been submitted to the Leader or the Chair of a Committee under Part 4, Council Procedure Rules, paragraph 10.4 of the Constitution.

53. MAKING OF THE BRAUNTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Council considered a report by the Head of Place, Property and Regeneration (circulated previously) regarding the Making of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Spear declared an other registerable interest (disclosed for transparency reasons only) as a Member of the Braunton Neighbourhood Steering Group.

It was moved by Councillor Spear and seconded by Councillor Worden that the recommendations be adopted.

RESOLVED that in respect of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan that:

- (a) the referendum results of 7 September 2023, where 90% of those who voted were in favour of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan be noted;
- (b) the Council formally "make" the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan that was subject to referendum on 7 September 2023 as part of the statutory development plan for North Devon District Council; and
- (c) the publication and circulation of the Decision Statement (draft as detailed in appendix 2) be delegated to the Head of Place, Property and Regeneration.

54. PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT QUARTER 1 2023/24

Council considered the Performance and Financial Management Quarter 1 of 2023/24 report to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 4 September 2023 (circulated previously).

(a) **Report of the Policy Development Committee**

Councillor Spear, Chair of the Policy Development Committee presented the Committee's report on the Performance and Financial Management Quarter 1 of 2023/24 report to the Policy Development Committee on 14 September 2023 (circulated previously).

(b) **Report of meeting of the Strategy and Resources**

Committee

Councillor Roome, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee presented the Committee's report on the Performance and Financial Management Quarter 1 of 2023/24 report to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 4 September 2023 (circulated previously).

It was moved by Councillor Roome and seconded by Councillor Worden "that minute 29 (f) of the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 4 September 2023 regarding the Performance and Financial Management Quarter 1 of 2023/24 be adopted."

RESOLVED that minute 29 (f) of the report of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on 4 September 2023 regarding the Performance and Financial Management Quarter 1 of 2023/24 be adopted.

55. CHANGE OF DATE OF FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING - FEBRUARY 2024

It was moved by Councillor Roome and seconded by Councillor C. Leaver "that the date of the meeting of Council that was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 6.30 pm be changed and that it be held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 6.30 pm instead as the original date would have an impact on issuing the Council Tax bills."

RESOLVED that the date of the meeting of Council that was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 6.30 pm be changed and that it be held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 6.30 pm instead as the original date would have an impact on issuing the Council Tax bills.

56. HALF YEARLY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Council considered and noted the half yearly report from the Chair of the Governance Committee (circulated previously).

57. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

(a) **Building Control Joint Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Building Control Joint Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

(i) 10 August 2023

(b) **Harbour Board**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Harbour Board (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

- (i) 8 August 2023
 - a. Minute 6: Appointment of two Independent Representatives to the Harbour Board
 - b. Minute 8: Ilfracombe Harbour Consultative Forum
 - c. Minute 12: Future Projects

(c) **Planning Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Planning Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

- (i) 27 July 2023
- (ii) 9 August 2023
- (iii) 6 September 2023

(d) **Policy Development Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Policy Development Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

- (i) 14 September 2023

(e) **Strategy and Resources Committee**

RESOLVED that the following minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee (circulated previously) be noted and adopted as follows:

- (i) 4 September 2023
 - a. Minute 34 (c): Section 106 Report
- (ii) 2 October 2023
 - a. Approval and Release of Section 106 Public Open Space Funds - Ilfracombe

Chair

The meeting ended at 7.23 pm

NOTE: These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.