



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL  
MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES**

Present: Cllr J Hodgson (Chair), Cllr Paine, Cllr Luker, Cllr Price, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Vint, Cllr Trow, Cllr Piper, Cllr Allen, Cllr Allford, Cllr Adams, Cllr Hendriksen, Cllr Webberley and Cllr Skinner.

Apologies: Cllr Perkins, Cllr Simms and D.Cllr Birch.

In Attendance: Catherine Marlton (Town Clerk), Christina Bewley (minutes), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), Soundart Radio x 1, D.Cllr Rose, D.Cllr Sweett and 3 members of the public.

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies and vote on whether to agree.	<p>Apologies were received from Cllr Perkins and Cllr Simms. The reasons given were read out by the Clerk. Cllr Perkins also gave his resignation.</p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the apologies and resignation from Cllr Perkins.</p> <p>Apologies were not accepted for Cllr Simms.</p>
2	The Mayor will request confirmation that all Members have completed or made any necessary amendments to their Declaration of Interests.	Confirmed.
3	<p><i>The Council will adjourn for the following items:</i></p> <p><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u></p>	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to suspend standing orders</p> <p>a) C.Cllr Hodgson e-mailed a report prior to the meeting with hard copies handed out at the meeting. Gypsies and travellers are a big issue for Totnes. DCC have a meeting planned for the end of the month to discuss ways forward. DCC are doing a caravan count to try to get an accurate assessment of the situation. There is a Government consultation out about enhancing Police powers on trespass. Cllr Hodgson suggested doing a Town Council response to the consultation. The Police are opposed to criminalising illegal camps. The Traffic Forum are hoping to hold an event in the Civic Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> of this month on Air Quality monitoring and Cllr Hodgson would like the Town Councils support for it. Cllr Paine asked that reports are submitted in sufficient time for Councillors to be able to read them before the meeting, and that they are in a big enough print for ease of reading. Cllr Webberley raised concerns about the poor public attitude towards travellers. Cllr Hodgson advised that SHDC received a grant from central government and employed some navigators who talk to the travellers to find out their needs, but that the real need is for serviced sites for them in the district. Cllr Trow raised concerns about the lack of affordable housing</p>

in Totnes. Cllr Piper confirmed that many travellers are forced into that lifestyle because of the shortage of affordable housing.

Cllr Vint asked that a letter be sent to DCC to raise concerns that the Littlehempston cycle path is still not open. He would like a Town Council response to the National consultation on travellers. He also enquired about how the air quality monitoring exercise proposed by Cllr Hodgson would be funded. Cllr Hodgson offered to pay it from her County Councillor budget.

b) D.Cllr Birch provided a written report.

c) D.Cllr Sweett provided a written report. She expressed concerns about the proposed changes in the trespass laws. She has also discussed homelessness with SHDC officers and the navigators. The outcome of the SHDC Travellers meeting was very positive and the Leader was suggesting the need to identify transit sites for travellers.

Cllr Piper suggested the issue of travellers should be discussed at Town Matters to prepare a solution to put forward to SHDC. He expressed concerns over the proposed changes in the trespass laws and how that will affect the right to ramble.

d) D.Cllr Rose provided a verbal report. He suggested looking outside the box for solutions with the travellers such as renting agricultural land. This could be tied in with climate change action to re-wild areas of land and travellers could be allowed to live on that land in exchange for looking after it. He is concerned that this vulnerable group of society and thinks some sort of awareness project might help reduce prejudices against them.

D.Cllr Rose has had a meeting with the SHDC officer dealing with the Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Action Plan should be out with all Town & Parish Council's for comment this week. There has been some progress with electric vehicles, they have bought an electric car for use by staff and are proposing to do loans for staff to buy electric vehicles. There is currently a link to a small website for the SHDC Climate Action. No specific deadline yet for finalising the Action Plan. An idea was put forward to establish a cross-sector panel to enable expertise in organisations and the public to be utilised.

Cllr Piper asked if any funding has been provided by central government to help with Climate Change action. D.Cllr Rose advised that he is not aware of anything from central government but SHDC have allocated £400000 in their budget for that purpose and just needs Executive Committee approval.

*The Council reconvened.*

4	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings:  <i>(Please note confidential minutes can be agreed but any discussion must be held in Part 2):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Full Council 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>b. Council Matters 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>c. Planning 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>d. Town Matters 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> </ol>	<p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve and sign the Minutes of the following meetings :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Full Council 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>b. Council Matters 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>c. Planning 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>d. Town Matters 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> </ol>
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes <u>and to approve any recommendations</u> from Committees  <i>(Please note confidential recommendations can be agreed but any discussion must be held in Part 2):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Full Council 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>b. Council Matters 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>c. Planning 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> <li>d. Town Matters 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</li> </ol>	<p>The following matters arose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Full Council 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020</u></li> </ol> <p>None</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. <u>Council Matters 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</u></li> </ol> <p>None</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. <u>Planning 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</u></li> </ol> <p>Item 2 – Cllr Vint offered to draft the wording for the Totnes Directory entry. He confirmed that this is just a reminder to the public and that SHDC are responsible for enforcement action if required. Cllr Hodgson referred to an audit that SHDC were intending to do some time ago of all the walls in the town and that it would be useful to chase that up. Cllr Paine proposed that there should be a H&amp;S standing agenda item to identify issues that need referring on to SHDC.  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the recommendation.  Item 7 – It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the recommendation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. <u>Town Matters 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020</u></li> </ol> <p>Public sessions – the offer of the workshop was accepted. It was agreed that Homelessness would be a standing agenda item. Cllr Price advised that she attends a two monthly multi-agency meeting about homelessness and the Town Council receives a copy of the minutes. She suggested the minutes could be distributed to all Councillors and she could come to the Town Matters meetings to answer any questions or take back any issues to the Homelessness meetings. This would be every two months to coincide with the Homelessness meetings. Cllr Webberley expressed an interest in becoming a Link Councillor and attending those meetings when the Councillors Link roles are reviewed in April.</p> <p>Item 8 – Cllr Vint gave an explanation of the Local Electricity bill. A letter of support should be prepared and sent to central government. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the recommendation.</p> <p>Item 9 – Cllr Adams advised that further information can be obtained from Mary Garvey who runs the Dementia Café every</p>

		<p>Friday 2pm-4pm at the Totnes Boating Association. Cllr Allen also has lots of literature she can share. Cllr Adams will invite Mary Garvey to come to talk at Full Council. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the recommendation.</p> <p>Item 10 – It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the recommendation. Cllr Piper asked for the Civic Hall booking process to include reference to Fairtrade to encourage hall users to buy Fairtrade goods. Cllr Vint suggested it could be included in our next Totnes Directory leaflet. The Clerk confirmed the Fairtrade logo is to be put on our website.</p> <p>Item 11 - It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the recommendation.</p>
6	To note any update on the NP (standing item).	Cllr Luker advised that there is nothing new to report as we are awaiting comments on the draft Plan from SHDC.
7	To receive any update on the progress on the draft Totnes Community Climate and Ecological Action plan.	Cllr Hodgson advised that there is no update as the drafting of the Action Plan is still in progress. Cllr Vint offered his help.
8	To note that the deadline for Councillor Allowance claim forms is 6th March 2020.	Noted.
9	To note the date of the Civic Dinner - Saturday 22nd February in the Civic Hall. Tickets must be purchased from Mairead <a href="mailto:mayor@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk">mayor@totnestowncouncil.gov.uk</a>	Noted. Cllr Hodgson advised that tickets are £16. Food in the Community are doing the catering. Totnes Caring are the main beneficiaries of the event and will be running the bar.
10	To note the latest Visit Totnes Marketing report.	Noted. Thanks were expressed to Samantha Branch for her work on this and the excellent Visit Totnes website.
11	To consider a request for a representative on the Devon Countryside Forum.	Cllr Allen, Cllr Trow and Cllr Hendriksen volunteered. This was unanimously <b>AGREED</b> .
<i>The Council did not asked to <b>RESOLVE</b> to exclude the press and public "by reason of the confidential nature of the business" to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.</i>		
12	To discuss any confidential items from the Council Matters minutes, such as staffing budgets.	None.
13	To note the date and time of the next meeting: <b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. Public session from 6.30pm in The Guildhall.</b>	Noted.

Ended 8.30pm

Catherine Marlton  
Town Clerk