

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Councillors Cohen (Chair), R Adams, Westacott MBE, M Adams, Whitty, Piper, Sermon, Paine, Vint, Sweett, Hart-Williams, Elliot-Smith, Barker, Hendriksen and Simms

Apologies: Councillor Hodgson

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), 1 member of the press and 18 members of the public

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies.	It was RESOLVED to accept the apologies.
2	The Mayor will request confirmation that all Members have made any amendments necessary to their Declaration of Interests, if appropriate.	There were no amendments.
3	<p><i>The Council will adjourn for the following items:</i></p> <p><u>Public Question Time:</u> A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Totnes.</p>	<p>Members of the public made the following comments:</p> <p>A resident spoke about the condition of the pavements and pedestrian areas in Totnes which she feels are not safe for disabled people. A lady died recently following complications after a fall in Ticklemore Street and DCC should be asked to do more to make them safer.</p> <p>There should be a referendum to determine a response to the Joint Plan. The speaker expressed concerns about the reliability of SHDC planning officers. This was referred to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>A resident who owns an electric car would like to see more charging points in the town and suggested looking at privately funded initiatives in addition to authority-provided services.</p> <p>A business owner stated that the closure of the TIC is breaking her advertising contract and she will be writing to the Council about this.</p> <p>The Council was urged to support the renewal of Totnes's Fairtrade status. The Fairtrade group needs the support of the Town Council and considers that this initiative is important to the town and to developing countries who are often at the mercy of large companies. An invitation was also extended to any councillor who would like to join the Fairtrade Committee.</p> <p>A resident complained that the Town Council staff cost too much and do not deliver the same service as before such as watering hanging baskets and preparing seating plans for mayoral events. He was particularly shocked that, at the last Mayor Choosing, two past mayors did not have reserved seats with their names on.</p> <p>Another concern was expressed by a resident about the condition of the pavements – he witnessed another fall last week. He also</p>

	<p><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u> <i>The Council will convene.</i></p>	<p>thought that the incident was exacerbated by the traffic problems and their impact on free passage for the ambulance. The badger cull has started in the South Hams and a resident expressed concern about the impact this will have on Totnes in terms of safety. It is not clear who does or does not have a licence but the badger group has put together a map. There will be a public demonstration and march in the town this Saturday.</p> <p>Councillor Vint explained that DCC is fulfilling its legal duties with regard to trip hazards on the highway but cannot afford to do more than this. He will continue to speak to them about the situation in Totnes.</p> <p>Councillor Green’s report is attached. A question was asked about the high fence which has been erected along the river near Steamer Quay. The SHDC Conservation Officer is not happy about it and the Planning Committee is liaising with him. It was agreed that the Town Council would write a letter to the owner of the land to express our unhappiness with the situation.</p> <p>NHS Consultations –Councillors were urged to attend the consultation because there are some very important questions about local hospitals. It was considered that a Town Council response would be appropriate and this will be placed on the Operations Committee agenda for further discussion.</p> <p>Councillor Birch talked about the SHDC plans to set up a local authority controlled company. SHDC has not consulted over this and it was not mentioned in any manifesto. He feels that we should challenge this, as he has done. Event Policy Change Proposal – the Town Council was advised to respond to this consultation.</p>
4	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council 4th July 2016 b. Recess Committee 18th August 2016 c. Planning Committee 30th June, 21st July and 11th August 2016 	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes with an amendment to replace “pre-planning” with “planning” in the minutes of the Recess Committee.</p>
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.</p>	<p>There were no matters arising.</p>
6	<p>To elect new councillors to Committees, Link Councillor positions and as representatives on Outside Bodies.</p>	<p>It was RESOLVED to make the following elections: Councillor Barker - Operations Committee Councillor Sweett - People Committee Councillor Hart-Williams - Operations Committee Councillor Elliot-Smith – People Committee</p>
7	<p>To elect councillors to the following vacancies:</p>	<p>It was RESOLVED to fill the vacancies as follows: Link Councillor for the Elderly and Vulnerable will be Councillor Elliot-Smith.</p>

	<p>Link Councillor for the Elderly and Vulnerable</p> <p>Link Councillor for Heritage</p> <p>Town Council representative on the Museum Trust</p> <p>Foundation Governors - KEVICC</p>	<p>Link Councillor for Heritage will be Councillor Piper.</p> <p>Town Council representative on the Museum Trust will be Councillor Simms.</p> <p>The 3 new Foundation Governors for KEVICC will be Councillors Elliot-Smith, Barker and M Adams.</p> <p>Fair trade Link Councillor will be Councillor Sermon.</p>
8	<p>To receive a proposal about the renewal of the town's Fairtrade status.</p>	<p>Councillor Vint asked the Town Council to give its support for the renewal of Totnes's Fairtrade status. He gave an overview about Fairtrade: Totnes Town Council is nominally a Fairtrade Council and the town has been Fairtrade for a few years now. He considers that this status contributes to our Tourism Strategy because it attracts visitors to the town.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to support the Fairtrade group's renewal of the town's Fairtrade status.</p>
9	<p>To receive an update about the Arts meeting and grant funding.</p>	<p>Councillor Cohen gave an update about the Arts meeting last month to which all those in the town involved in arts and culture were invited. 39 people attended, with others sending apologies, and there was a very positive response. The intention now is to form a database to record everyone who would like to be involved and set up a group.</p> <p>The Paige Adams Trust has agreed to fund the support to write a Cultural Plan and to submit an initial expression of interest for grant funding under the Great Place Scheme. This support will be in the form of a grant for no more than £4,000 and it will pay for a specialist in the arts world to support the group and co-ordinate and write the Plan.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Town Council would support this decision by the Paige Adams Trust.</p>
10	<p>To note the date of the next meeting on Monday 3rd October 2016 at 7pm in the Guildhall.</p>	<p>This was noted.</p>

END

MAYOR