**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL**

**MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES**

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

Apologies: Councillors Piper, Sermon, R Adams and Barker

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), District Councillors Birch and Green, 2 members of the press and 8 members of the public

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| No | Subject | Comments |
|  | Before the meeting the Council will receive an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. | This was received and the NP team were congratulated on their work. |
| 1 | To receive apologies. | It was **RESOLVED** to receive 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 | *The Council will adjourn for the following items:*  Public Questions: 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.  Reports from County and District Councillors  *The Council will convene.* | Members of the public spoke about the following items:  A resident has been photographing vehicles in the High St and considers that there are far more travelling up the street than parking spaces available, which leads to the question of where they are going. He also think the street is too easily blocked and this could be a problem for emergency vehicles. He wants the Council to reconsider the Traffic Order.  A resident said that he had enjoyed the presentation about the Neighbourhood Plan and wondered how it can influence the Local Plan. He was invited to attend Steering Group meetings to speak to them about this.  A resident asked how we can be guaranteed that the T3 area is removed from the Local Plan and how we marry up the difficulties between the NP and the Local Plan in terms of what the community wants. This item will go to the next Planning Committee.  The Mayor then read out a statement in response to a question last month from a member of the public who questioned the wage bill in the Town Council. The Mayor stated that in 2009/10, during the last full year in which the previous Town Clerk was in post, there were 13 permanent and 8 casual staff employed by the Town Council at a cost of £184,244, which equates to £220,302 in today’s money*.* In 2016/17 the budget for staffing, including the cost of running the TIC, was £179, 801 for 8 staff, which is lower than it was in 2009.  District Councillor Birch  Questions were asked about the Duke of Somerset’s development proposals and the fact that they have not been submitted to SHDC as a planning application.  The inclusion of the T3 area in the Joint Local Plan was discussed. Cllr Birch explained that there is a Regulation 19 consultation in the spring at which any objections are examined at a public enquiry. Therefore if T3 is still in the Plan and there are objections this will be examined.  District Councillor Green  Cllr Green explained that it is possible to remove T3 before the February consultation but that this is not guaranteed. We need to ensure that the SHDC assets desires do not outweigh those of the town. At present, there is momentum within SHDC for T3 to remain in the Plan. Cllr Green has got together with some fellow district councillors to put a proposal for the site to be removed. It is likely that, if the Neighbourhood Plan is granted permission to look at the site, it will still have to reflect any housing numbers laid down in the Plan.  A consultation will take place over devolution proposals. The LEP will not have a vote but will still have influence.  Cllr Green is part of a homelessness strategy group which will be consulting with professionals on 12th October about homeless issues.  County Councillor Vint  Cllr Vint spoke about electric car charging points in the town. He will ask TTTF to evaluate possible locations and then this matter will be discussed by the Planning Committee. The option to put a point on the Rotherfold has been discounted after discussions with the Chamber of Commerce, which considered that this removed too many parking spaces. |
| 4 | To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :   1. Full Council 5th September 2016 2. People Committee 14th September 2016 3. Planning Committee 1st September and 22nd September 2016 | Councillor Whitty raised an issue over the Planning Minutes of 22nd September and these were referred back to the Planning Committee.  It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of:   1. Full Council 5th September 2016 2. People Committee 14th September 2016 3. Planning Committee 1st September 2016 |
| 5 | To consider any matters arising from the Minutes. | The following matters arose:  Full Council  Item 1  Cllr Hodgson wanted to ensure that the new councillors had been welcomed at the September meeting and asked if they would be receiving appropriate induction training.  Item 3  Cllr Hodgson wanted to clarify at which Committee the NHS consultation would be discussed. It was decided to refer it to the People Committee and not the Operations Committee as stated in the minutes.  People Committee  Item 4  Cllr M Adams stated that this could be an opportunity to attract more visitors to Totnes.  Item 10  Cllr Hodgson stated that she hoped the Image Bank would be able to move into the Mansion because it is an important resource for the town. She also stated that lots of people were interested in relocating to the Mansion and that the Town Council, as the elected body, should be ensuring that one organisation is not over-riding the process of deciding this. Cllr Whitty responded by praising Totnes Community Development Society for taking on the transfer of the building, which the Town Council had not wanted to do, and explained that it had been and continues to be a complicated and expensive process. He considers that we should praise them for doing this.  TCDS will be asked to give a presentation to the People Committee to explain their plans. |
| 6 | To receive an update from a meeting with SHDC about the Waste Rounds Review. | It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow District Councillors Birch and Green to give an update about this meeting.  A meeting was held at SHDC with the relevant officers, our District Councillors and the Deputy Town Clerk to address the concerns of the Town Council, namely that we were being cut out of the review and would not have an opportunity to raise any issues, particularly the issue of Friday bin collections. The review is software based and data is fed in to a computer system to generate a more efficient solution. It was agreed that they could put a default on the system to exclude Friday collections in Totnes from the solution. Results are expected within a month.  A discussion was also held about the general appearance of Totnes and the cleansing regime. In particular SHDC would like to raise awareness about the use of seagull sacks and will be leafleting shops and homes. It was agreed to hold a walkabout on Thursday 20th October at 5pm, starting with Totnes initially and considering Bridgetown on another occasion. Town councillors were invited to attend.  The District Councillors were thanked for their help with this.  Cllr Hodgson raised the issue of separated recycling around the town and suggested we should pilot communal bins in some areas. This is under consideration by SHDC. They are also looking into moving the recycling banks into the Nursery car park because it is an eyesore in the Heath’s Way car park. This will be followed up on the next Planning Agenda. |
| 7 | To discuss a proposal to invite the Duke of Somerset’s representative to a meeting with town councillors to explain the estate’s development proposals. | This was discussed and it was agreed that the Town Council would not engage with any discussions with the Duke’s estate until the latter had submitted proper planning applications. |
| 8 | To note the [consultation](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/659-nalc-warns-parish-will-damage-communities) about Council Tax referendum principles and the closing date for responses of 28th October. | This was noted. |
| 9 | To note the minutes from the Remembrance Parade Meeting and to note the date of this year’s Remembrance Parade on Sunday 13th November. | This was noted. |
| 10 | To note the date of the next meeting on **Monday 7th November 2016 at 7pm** in the Guildhall. | This was noted. |

END

MAYOR