**MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL OFFICES TOTNES**

Present: Cllr Elliott Smith, Cllr Vint, Cllr Whitty (Chair), Cllr Hendriksen, Cllr Sweett, Cllr Piper.

Apologies: Cllr Sermon

Not Present: Cllr Simms

In Attendance: Catherine Marlton (Deputy Town Clerk), 1 member of the public, 1 member of the Press, Cllr Hodgson

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| **No** | **Subject** | **Comments** |
| 1 | To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Committee. | It was **RECOMMENDED** that the apologies be received. |
|  | *The Committee will adjourn for the following item:* |  |
|  | *Public Engagement:* | No members of the public were in attendance. |
|  | *The Committee will convene to consider the following items:* |  |
| 2 | To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2016 and deal with any matters arising. | The minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising. |
| 3 | To consider a proposal by Caring Town for the supporting of Local Information Services in the town. | It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow a discussion involving a member of the public.  The proposal from Caring Town is attached. It was not received in time for this meeting and therefore no recommendations were made at this stage and the proposal will be discussed again at the next People Committee meeting.  The following points were made:  Cllr Whitty explained that this is a partnership proposal following the restructure of information services agreed previously.  Cllr Vint asked how this proposed local information service would interface with the tourism information points in the town. The Deputy Clerk explained that the proposed local information service will signpost visitors as needed to other services, including tourist information, but that the staff and service will be focused on local information and aiding vulnerable residents of the town.  Cllr Hodgson asked about the budgets and how they compare to what was proposed in the TIC restructure discussions. The Deputy Clerk explained that £6,000 was earmarked for 2016/17 and £16,800 in 17/18 and going forward when the restructure proposal was completed. Phase 1 in the Caring Town proposal would funded with £6000 from the current year budget and £4564 with 2017/18 budget.  Phase 2 is costed for the 9 months remaining of the 17/18 financial year. There are 3 options that differ in cost that need to be considered and the first option would be deliverable under the previously discussed annual figure of £16,800.  Cllr Hodgson asked that tourism information be co-located with this local information service. Cllr Whitty explained that the proposal from Caring Town is a focused, specialist service to support the most vulnerable sectors of the community in a much more comprehensive way than the previous Totnes Information Service which developed into providing help to this sector out of necessity rather than design.  The Deputy Clerk explained that the Destination Manager will be giving an update about tourist information at the November Council meeting.  Cllr Piper expressed his support for the Caring Town proposal which he felt was very comprehensive and targeted the health and wellbeing of local residents.  Cllr Hodgson said she was concerned about the public perception of supporting a new service given the restructure. Cllr Whitty said he felt that as long as the purpose and objectives were clearly publicised and a consistent message given out then the local community would understand the distinction and the benefits.  Cllr Vint asked whether the Citizens Advice Bureau based at Follaton House had been consulted. Fiona Ward, Caring Town Co-ordinator, explained that a dialogue is ongoing. The CAB is very supportive of the proposal and wants to look at providing advice in the form of surgeries on a number of issues to reach a wider range of the community.  In summary the committee expressed support for the Caring Town proposal and wanted the Operations Committee to consider the financial implications. |
| 4 | To consider the proposed service restructure by the CCG. | Cllr Vint explained that he had attended two local consultation events and the main concerns being fed back from members of the public are that closures and cuts in the surrounding area will add pressure on Totnes Hospital, and that patients will be discharged from a hospital environment before they are ready.  Cllr Hodgson said that people are feeling fearful of the proposals and that she had concerns that these proposed changes are significant and provided savings of £1.4 million, but that there is still in excess of £18 million in savings to find. She felt that the consultation process is misleading.  Cllr Piper and Cllr Hendriksen also expressed similar concerns, that this is ‘privatisation by stealth’ and they welcomed the line being taken by Dr S Wollaston MP.    It was RECOMMENDED to Full Council that we:   * write to the Secretary of State for Health and NHS England asking for the NHS Success Regime project for Devon to be cancelled due to the flawed and misleading consultation process * write to the CCG rejecting the proposals entirely * support local community services and voluntary groups who look after the health and wellbeing of Totnes residents. |
| 5 | To consider adopting the Draft NP Open Space Policy. | Cllr Whitty presented the draft Open Space Policy which is available to view on the Town Council website.  Cllr Hodgson asked if a list of unallocated S106 monies could be included to show the potential.  Cllr Vint asked how the matter of how green spaces can be managed in the long term given SHDC will not take on any more, and also how we integrate community spaces into a network to increase and promote use.  The Deputy Clerk asked about how any resource implications would be managed and planned for. Cllr Whitty explained that any sums needing budgeting for would not be until at least the 2018/19 financial year. In terms of reviewing the document he suggested perhaps adding a section of the policy to each People Committee meeting agenda for discussion over the course of the next year.  It was RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the draft Neighbourhood Planning Open Space Sports and Recreation Strategy be adopted.  It was RECOMMENDED to Full Council that we support the application for Leechwell Garden to be listed as a local green space. |
| 6 | To consider the request for funding of the Family Christmas Events in the Civic Hall. | The Deputy Clerk outlined the partnership proposal between Mane Events and the Chamber of Commerce to facilitate the family nights in the Civic Hall in December, as piloted last year.  The proposal was for a total of £500 to support these events, £300 for hall hire and £200 for a large banner and leaflet printing.  The committee were very supportive of the proposal and felt it was just the sort of event that should be held in the Civic Hall.  It was RECOMMENDED to Full Council that we fund the Christmas Family Fun nights in the Civic Hall at a cost of £500. |
| 7 | To consider the regularity of the People Committee meetings. | It was RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the People Committee move from bi-monthly meetings to monthly meetings, held at 9.30am on the second Thursday of each month, starting in January 2017. |
| 8 | To diary the date of the next meeting – 9.30am Wednesday 16th November 2016 | This was agreed and there will be no meeting in December. |

END

MAYOR

**TIC Working Group meeting – 18th October 2016**

Attendees: Cllr Whitty, Cllr Westacott, Cllr Cohen, Cllr Piper

In Attendance: Deputy Town Clerk, Catherine Marlton

CM outlined that the transition to the new tourism structure was going well and the new Destination Manager, Samantha Branch, was working closely with Gillian with regards to advertisers for the 2017 Totnes Guide.

It was suggested that CM ask Samantha to update all Councillors at December Full Council. CM to action.

CM outlined the need to start looking at what local information services are needed and how this can be provided, ideally from The Mansion given its location and other services proposed for that site.

Councillors asked CM to ask Caring Town to put together a proposal for investigating what provision is needed and starting to structure a future service. CM explained that a proposal needs to be put forward as soon as possible to allow Caring Town to start any fact finding exercise in line with The Mansion opening. CM to action and bring back to People Committee.

It was agreed no further working groups were needed and that all Councillors should be updated directly with regards to Tourism provision.