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

**MONDAY 5th DECEMBER 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES**

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

Apologies: Councillor Marion Adams and Sermon

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), District Councillors Green and Birch, 2 members of the press and 11 members of the public

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| No | Subject | Comments |
| 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. Inspector Tapley, Devon and Cornwall Police, will attend the meeting to speak to councillors.Reports from County and District Councillors*The Council will convene.*  | The Council adjourned for the following items:Members of the public spoke about the following matters:The Fairtrade group presented the Town Council with a hamper in recognition of Totnes becoming a Fairtrade town for the next two years. They thanked the councillors for their help in allowing Totnes to remain a Fairtrade town. The Mayor congratulated them on their fourth renewal and presented the certificate. A member of Citizens UK, a group which helps to rehome refugees in the area, spoke about Cllr Hodgson’s hard work in supporting them and expressed disappointment about the allegations in the Totnes Times which claimed that she had overspent on her mayoral budget.A member of the South Devon Refugee Support Network reflected the same message as above.A member of an adjoining parish read out a prepared statement which also reflected their disappointment about the matter in the Totnes Times. A member of the public asked the Council for a response to his concerns about access for emergency vehicles in the High St under the new road layout. A member of the public expressed his concerns about the law which allows wading birds to be shot and he asked for support in raising this issue with the Government. He has previously written to the Secretary of State about it and agreed to bring in a copy of the reply he received. The Mayor welcomed the new Inspector and he introduced himself to the Council. He explained Operation Venus which is aimed at preventing the use of legal highs. The latest crime report was read out and questioned answered by Sgt Perrin. Councillor Green gave an update about works to trees in the Chicken Run. District Councillors have been involved with this and work has stopped pending further discussion. They will meet with officers to discuss future improvements to communications in these matters. No trees that were cut down had TPOs. He explained that local green spaces can be designated and suggested that local residents should nominate spaces for designation. Councillor Birch spoke about the LACC proposal at SHDC: he is still trying to get the Council to make public the legal advice it received. He read out the statement from Councillor Hicks about the T3 plans, which is available via the SHDC website. Councillor Vint spoke about the Littlehempston Cycle Path Working Group which meets as part of HATOC. Sarah Wollaston MP is interested and he will be arranging a meeting with Councillor Rowe. The lighting in the Skate Park and Rugby Club is not the responsibility of SHDC. The bulbs are very expensive and Councillor Vint has been paying for them from his Locality Fund. It was agreed that this will go to the People Committee to discuss how this can be funded in the future. The Council convened.  |
| 4 | To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings:1. Full Council 7th November 2016
2. Operations Committee 21st November 2016
3. People Committee 16th November 2016
4. Planning Committee 3rd November and 24th November 2016
 | It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Minutes of the following meetings:1. Full Council 7th November 2016
2. Operations Committee 21st November 2016
3. People Committee 16th November 2016
4. Planning Committee 3rd November and 24th November 2016
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| 5 | To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.  | The following matters arose:Full Council 7th November 2016Item 8Councillor Hodgson asked if glyphosate use would be included in any new grounds maintenance contracts. This will be referred back to the Operations Committee for discussion. Operations Committee 21st November 2016Item 3It was **RESOLVED** to make the changes to the maintenance contract subject to the new cost.It was **RESOLVED** toaccept the quotation for memorial safety testing.Item 4It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Team be closed and the Town Centre Partnership formed as proposed.Councillors discussed the proposal for a Town Centre Manager and agreed with the recommendations from the Operations Committee. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council will continue to provide support to the Town Centre Partnership by providing administrative/secretarial services. The Town Clerk was asked to work out the time and cost of this support. Item 6Councillor Hodgson was concerned that the flexibility in the Mayoral Budget is not lost. At this point she asked to read out a prepared statement regarding the article in the Totnes Times about her mayoral expenses. This request was refused on the grounds that it was not part of the agenda. Councillor Hodgson left the meeting at 8pm. The Policy was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the amended draft. Item 7The request from Totnes Gardens for funding will be included in the budget considerations. Item 8Councillor Whitty declared a personal interest. It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Caring Town Co-ordinator to speak to councillors. She explained that there was not yet a date for the handover of the Mansion so the location of Caring Town was yet to be confirmed. They hoped that this would happen by the end of the year. Councillors discussed the different financial options and the two different recommendations from the People and Operations Committees. It was **RESOLVED** to allow for Option 3 in the budget on the proviso that this will be reviewed and a further decision made about exactly how much money is to be allocated. It was agreed that Councillor Elliot-Smith would be the Link Councillor as part of the formal partnership. People Committee 16th November 2016Item 3This item was covered under the matters arising from the Operations Committee. Item 5It was RESOLVED that a one-off fee of £90 be paid to those covering out of hours and weekend events such as paranormal nights and weddings. It was RESOLVED that a special community rate of £10 per hour should be implemented for Civic Hall bookings from January 2017. This would be at the discretion of the Council Venues Working Group, for qualifying charitable Totnes groups. Ancillary charges would still apply as before for heating, kitchen hire, sound equipment etc. |
| 6 | To note the minutes of the DALC Larger Councils Sub Committee on 10th November 2016. | This was noted and Councillor Cohen read out the NALC resolution on the referendum principles.  |
| 7 | To note the date of the next meeting on **Monday 9th January 2017 at 7pm** in the Guildhall. | This was noted and the meeting ended at 8.25pm.  |

END

MAYOR