

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2015 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Councillors Hodgson (Chairman), Harper, Boswell, Marion Adams, Wellwood, Gorman, Finn, Rosie Adams, Craddock, Greenway, Westacott MBE, Vint, Horsburgh and Harvey

Apologies: Councillors Cohen and Whitty

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), 10 members of the public and 1 member of the press

| No | Subject | Comments |
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| 1 | The Mayor will open the Meeting and 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. Please note that if any Councillor is a member of any Town organisation by enrolment and/or paid subscription this must be declared and these declarations of interest also made known at the time of discussing such items. | There were no amendments. |
| 3 | <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><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u></p> | <p>Members of the public spoke about the following matters:</p> <p>Waste is not being properly recycled in the Totnes Recycling Centre.</p> <p>A drain cover on the Plymouth Road has been loose for a month and DCC Highways has placed a sign next to it but it has not been tied down so it fell over. This could be dangerous.</p> <p>The Friends of Great Court Farm thanked the Town Council for its support during its campaign against the Planning Application and at the Development Management Meeting. The decision was not made in favour of the Friends and the Group is considering a number of challenges and a continuation of the campaign. They are seeking a meeting with the Duke but he is away for 6 weeks so this cannot happen at present. They want to ensure the best possible deal for the town and for the tenant and they feel it is clear that the town does not want houses on this site. They hope to encourage the Duke to engage with the community via its Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>V Day One Billion Rising will take place on 14th February this year to raise money for local charities which reflect the causes of protecting women and children to stand against abuse. A request was made for the hire fee for the Civic Hall to be waived and the Mayor suggested that the group could apply to the Paige Adams Trust, though this may not fit with their timescales.</p> <p>These were received and the following matters discussed:</p> <p>The Gold Bus service may be reduced and this service is not a subsidised one so there is little that DCC can do to influence this decision.</p> <p>The Rainbow Crossing has received general support from DCC but there have been no detailed plans and no money is available.</p> <p>Cllr Vint was asked about his Locality Budget: he explained that the budget is available as a last resort to support community projects and that he is expecting to spend it within the timescale.</p> <p>Cllr Westacott hoped that the new District Councillors for Bridgetown would establish a good rapport with the Riverside developers, as she and Cllr Hannaford had done.</p> <p>Parking permits for businesses are expensive and the cost of</p> |

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| | <p><u>Report from Inspector Tomlinson, Devon and Cornwall Police</u></p> | <p>replacement is punitive. SHDC has agreed to review this in line with the policy for residential permits.</p> <p>DCC Highways seems not to recognise or do anything about the problems associated with the A385, which also impacts on Fore St/High St. We lost money on the Riverside development and now we have lost the Great Court Farm decision. It was agreed to discuss asking the CEO of DCC to attend a Council meeting to discuss these and other issues with him.</p> <p>Cllr Gorman raised the issue of the public toilets in the town and in particular in the Civic Square. He feels that it should be possible to furnish the toilets with anti-vandal furniture and wants SHDC to look into this.</p> <p>This was noted.</p> |
| | <p><i>The Council will convene to conduct the following business:</i></p> | |
| <p>4</p> | <p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council 5th January 2015 b. Full Council Budget Meeting 26th January 2015 c. Operations Committee 19th January 2015 d. Place Committee 20th January 2015 e. People Committee 26th January 2015 | <p>It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes.</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.</p> | <p>The following matters arose:</p> <p><u>Full Council 5th January</u></p> <p>Update on Fairtrade: A tea grower from Kenya is coming to Totnes to give a talk at 4pm on 3rd March in the Methodist Hall. Entrance is £3 and includes tea and cake.</p> <p><u>Operations Committee Meeting</u></p> <p>Item 5</p> <p>The Town Team report into the Market Square was noted and a request made that a member of the Elizabethan Markets be included. The consultation will be on Saturday 21st February in the Mansion, alongside the Mansion information morning. The Town Council will not be carrying out the work on the High St Audit but has asked to see the report on completion. The Council therefore RESOLVED to fund the study to a limit of £1,050.</p> <p>Item 7</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to accept the offer from the Image Bank to preserve the mayoral pictures in the Guildhall.</p> <p>Item 8</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to support the proposal to establish a Heritage Partnership. Councillors Craddock, Westacott and Boswell will reconvene to look into the detail of how to set this up.</p> <p>Item 9</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to extend the remit of the Civic Hall WG as requested. Local residents should be involved in future plans.</p> <p>Item 10</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the Communications and Social Media Policy.</p> <p><u>Place Committee</u></p> <p>Item 2</p> <p>The Rainbow Crossing proposal will need to be subject to</p> |

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| | | <p>conditions from DCC Highways and they cannot respond until they have a formal proposal. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council should express broad support for the proposal and recommend that the Place Committee engages with the Conservation Officer and the Traffic and Transport Forum to come up with a more detailed proposal.</p> <p>Item 4 Bowden House – the Place Committee is arranging a site visit and Councillor Boswell will be included as Link Councillor for Heritage.</p> <p>Item 9 The plans for the proposed new Care Home on the Riverside site will be very prominent, particularly from the river, and the Place Committee felt that the design was not appropriate. The Committee recommended therefore that this should be properly discussed at Development Management and not given delegated authority. It was therefore RESOLVED that the Town Council request of SHDC that this application go to the Development Management Committee.</p> <p><u>People Committee</u></p> <p>Item 3 Totnes Matters – it was RESOLVED that the first edition will be dedicated to Neighbourhood Planning.</p> <p>Item 5 For “JH” read “JW” on the RDNB Users Group.</p> <p>Item 8 It was RESOLVED to trial Participatory Budgeting for the April grant funding and the People Committee will produce a plan.</p> <p>Item 10 The intention of SHDC to provide one single provider for leisure facilities across the South Hams was questioned and whether or not local providers could be used instead.</p> |
| 6 | To receive a brief from the Chairman of Place about the Development Management decision on the Great Court Farm application and to authorise the Place Committee to send a letter on behalf of the Town Council to Sarah Wollaston MP asking for her support in challenging this decision. | <p>Councillor Wellwood, Chairman of Place, gave an update and requested delegated authority for the Place Committee to write to Sarah Wollaston MP for her support in challenging the procedure, specifically that pertaining to the information about local conditions given by Highways.</p> <p>This was discussed by councillors and it was RESOLVED to give delegated authority to the Place Committee to draft a letter to Sarah Wollaston MP to request her support in challenging the process and allowing the community the opportunity to challenge the information presented by DCC Highways. It was RESOLVED to invite the CEO of DCC to come along and speak to the Town Council about this and other matters.</p> |
| 7 | To approve a response to be sent to Stagecoach about the Gold bus service route in Bridgetown. | <p>Councillor Harper introduced this item and it was discussed by councillors. It was RESOLVED to send a response to Stagecoach and to DCC and ask them to intervene on our behalf about the proposed changes to the Gold Bus Service route in Bridgetown. It was also agreed to write to Highways, copied to SHDC, about the S106 money from Riverside which is being spent on bikes for individuals rather than being used collectively for contributions to things such as these bus services.</p> |
| 8 | To note the update on station signage. | <p>This was noted and David Martin was thanked for his hard work on this project.</p> |
| 9 | To receive an update about the Rotherfold. | <p>This item was deferred to another meeting because members of the Rotherfold Group were not able to attend.</p> |

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| 10 | To note the election timetable and to set the date of corresponding Council and Civic events. | This was noted. The following dates were set by Council: Open Evening for new councillors – 6pm on Monday 2 nd March before the Council meeting Annual Meeting of the Council – this will be decided at the March meeting Mayor Choosing – this will be decided at the March meeting Mayor's Civic Dinner - 7.30pm on 26 th March Tony Bowhay – presentation of Honorary Freeman certificate and medal will be on Sunday 19 th April in the afternoon |
| 11 | To note that the Town Council will be hosting BBC Radio 4 Any Questions? on Friday 10 th April 2015 in the Civic Hall. | This was noted. Councillors were asked to contact the Town Clerk if they would like tickets. |
| 12 | To note the support received from Sarah Wollaston MP on the subject of Town and Parish Councils being subjected to a referendum principle on precept rises. | This was noted. It was suggested that we invite Sarah Wollaston to a Town Council meeting in the future. |
| 13 | To note the date of the next meeting: Monday 2nd March 2015 at 7pm. | This was noted but see Item 10 above for earlier start time of 6pm. |

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MAYOR