

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2015 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Councillors Hodgson (Chair), Boswell, Westacott MBE, Horsburgh, Vint, Harper, Hendriksen, Paine, Connelly, Piper, Cohen, Rosie Adams, Whitty

Apologies: Councillor Marion Adams 9 members of the public

Not present: Councillor Simms

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), District Councillor Green, 2 members of the press and 9 members of the public

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.	Councillor Rosie Adams has now joined the friends of the Museum and will update her Register of Interests. Councillor Simms has not completed a Register of Interests.
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><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u> <i>The Council will convene.</i></p>	<p>Members of the public spoke about the following items:</p> <p>There was a query about what progress has been made with procuring a larger letter box at the top of town. The Planning Committee has written to the CEO of Royal Mail and it seems that the matter cannot be progressed any further.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the Schedule 2 List of birds which may be shot out of season because some of these birds are in decline and need a safe habitat. The Council was asked for its support in raising attention to this issue so they can be given better protection. His letter to the Minister that was copied to the Mayor will be circulated and brought to the Planning Committee.</p> <p>A member of Bridgetown Alive drew attention to the charity Flamenco show in 21st November to which all are invited. Tickets are on sale.</p> <p>One of the Chairmen of the Traffic and Transport Committee said that he hoped the Town Council would support the Forum and its work.</p> <p>A new website has been set up called Beyond Borders Totnes www.beyondborderstotnes.org.uk which is gathering all the local energy and goodwill for supporting refugees. They wanted to explain to the Council how much is going on within the community and to ask for councillors to help in any way they can. A member of this group then presented a piece of artwork to the Mayor as a thank you for the Town Council's support.</p> <p>See attached reports. Councillor Vint was asked to look into the possibility of using Parkers Barn for refugee accommodation, which he will do.</p>
4	To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :	It was resolved to approve and sign the Minutes of the meetings as detailed.

	<p>a. Full Council 5th October 2015</p> <p>b. Operations Committee 15th October and 26th October 2015</p> <p>c. Planning and Place Committee 15th October 2015</p>	
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes and to approve any recommendations from Committees.</p>	<p>Recommendations from Committees:</p> <p><u>Operations Committee 15th October</u></p> <p>Item 3</p> <p>The accounts were received and the following was RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bank Reconciliations and accounts for payment for Cashbooks 1, 3, 4 and 5 for the period 01/06/2015 to 01/09/2015 were noted. • The Payment Orders for the period 01/06/2015 to 01/09/2015 were approved. • The Income and Expenditure Report for the period to 01/09/2015 was noted. <p>The Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting should be altered to show that Item 3 was indeed a recommendation.</p> <p>Item 4</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Town Council Investments Strategy be approved.</p> <p>Item 5</p> <p>The General Reserve limit was considered to be reasonably sound at present and it was RESOLVED that a sum of £225,000 be invested now with the CCLA Property Fund. It was also RESOLVED that we should aim towards having a General Reserve equivalent to 12 months' turnover and that this should be achieved by annual increments.</p> <p>The Committee RESOLVED that the Paige Adams revenue funds should be earmarked by Council in accordance with its Aims and Priorities. The above resolutions will be put to Council at its budget meeting.</p> <p><u>Operations Committee 26th October</u></p> <p>Item 3</p> <p>This item was discussed at the end of the meeting because there were confidential matters included within the discussion.</p> <p><u>Planning and Place Committee 15th October</u></p> <p>Item 1</p> <p>The Committee RESOLVED that the Council should support the PRIOR campaign by writing a letter to Devon County Council Highways. It was also RESOLVED that the letter from a Plymouth Road resident requesting a pedestrian crossing be put in place to accommodate the increase of foot traffic from the Follaton Oak development be included.</p> <p>Item 6</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that we keep to the agreement that DCC will carry out grass verge cutting within the town.</p>
6	<p>To note the half yearly budget and to set the date of the January budget meetings.</p>	<p>This was noted.</p> <p>The budget will be set at the Council meeting on Monday 1st February 2016. The Town Clerk will arrange a training session for councillors before this date to remind councillors about their responsibilities and challenges in setting the budget.</p>

7	To note the correspondence sent from the Totnes Traffic and Transport Forum to DCC and SHDC.	<p>This was noted and the Council discussed the role of the Forum in relation to the Town Council.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that the Forum work should continue to be supported.</p> <p>It was also RESOLVED that the matter will be taken to the next Planning and Place Committee meeting to define the relationship between the Town Council and the Forum and ensure that the work of the Forum does not undermine the NP.</p>
8	To receive an update from the Chair of Planning & Place about the meeting with Sarah Wollaston MP on the subject of housing need.	<p>Councillor Rosie Adams gave an update about the meeting between her, Councillors Hodgson and Vint and Sarah Wollaston MP.</p> <p>The main items were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To request more clarity and involvement in the allocation and use of the 106 money, the aim being to ringfence a portion of that money for affordable housing for local people. Sarah had no idea that this Council was not consulted with regards to the 106 money and has asked us to write to her explaining the history, present situation and our hopes for a joint mutually beneficial plan for any future money. This is in line with 2013 legislation which required 'that there is a greater emphasis on public access to information and that the information should be readily available'. She is giving us her backing in this matter. 2. The second area that was raised was regarding the 'right to buy' where local authorities will have to sell high value council properties in order to compensate the housing associations that will have to sell their assets at a discount. There is a possibility, and this is not set in stone yet, that Devon's rural areas may have some kind of exemption though this would probably not extend to Totnes and Bridgetown. Sarah Wollaston's suggestion is that we take our case to the relevant Civil Servant to plead special case status for Totnes and that we may need to arrange a visit to London New Year. Both Councillors Rosie Adams and Hodgson would be happy to do this. <p>Councillor Adams thanked her fellow councillors Planning for their time and support and the Mayor thanked Councillor Adams for organising the meeting.</p>
9	To note that the Plymouth Plan Part One has been approved and is now available to view at www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouthplan	<p>This was noted.</p> <p>SHDC has not yet confirmed its housing numbers for its strategic Our Plan but Plymouth has done so and this is a cause for concern.</p>
10	To note that Esther Young has resigned from the Council.	<p>This was noted. The Mayor thanked her for the contribution she has made to the Council. The Town Clerk has advertised the Casual Vacancy.</p>

11	To elect Councillor Connelly to the People Committee and to accept his resignation from the Planning and Place Committee.	Councillor Connelly was elected to the People Committee and his resignation from the Planning and Place Committee was accepted.
12	To note the arrangements for Remembrance Parade and Armistice Day.	These were noted.
13	To note the DCLG briefing on Devolution Deals: The Role of Neighbourhoods.	This was noted. Councillor Hendriksen has prepared a brief for the Council about devolution which will be disseminated.
14	To note the statement from Andrea Jenkyns MP, Chair of the Local Democracy All Party Parliamentary Group.	This was noted.
15	To note the letter from the Totnes Allotments Association.	This was noted and the Council thanked the TAA for the letter and congratulated it on its hard work. The Council expressed its support for the provision of allotments within the town and invited TAA to attend a Committee meeting to discuss their thoughts on gaining further allotments within the town. Councillor Vint declared a personal interest as a Trustee of Kingsbridge Hill allotments.
16	To note the invitation to Information and Advice Surgeries.	This was noted.
17	To note the Police Report to the Town Council.	This was noted.
		<i>The Council resolved to exclude members of the press and public.</i>
		Operations Committee 26 th October 2015 Item 3 The Committee RESOLVED that the Council invites potential partners to an initial meeting to set up a Tourism Partnership. The list of partners will be drawn from the suggested list in the Tourism Report and this report will be used to draw up the agenda. Representation from the Council were agreed as Councillors Harper, Cohen and Rosie Adams. The meeting will be scheduled for the end of November so that it is held before the precept is set.
18	To note the date of the next meeting: Monday 7th December 2015 at 7pm	This was noted.

END

MAYOR