

**MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE
MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2015 AT THE GUILDHALL, TOTNES**

Present: Councillors Whitty (Chair), Boswell, Finn, Gorman, Greenway, Hodgson, Vint and Westacott

Apologies: Councillor Cohen

In attendance: Tatiana Cant (Deputy Town Clerk) and 3 members of the public

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.	Apologies were accepted from Cllr Finn.
	<i>The Committee adjourned for the following item:</i>	
2	Public Engagement Time: A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions engage the committee regarding the work of the Committee or other items that affect Totnes.	<p>i. Totnes New Year: Organisers from the event reported that the event had been extremely successful with very few difficulties, thanks to effectively designing security into the arrangements from the beginning. Good relationships had been established with the police and other relevant authorities and collaboration with the town council had been particularly useful. Feedback had been positive and focused on the inclusive nature of the party . It was arranged so that it catered for families, teenagers and adults. Income had totalled approximately £2,700 and it was expected that once expenditure is covered, there would be a surplus of £1,000. There was a contingency fund of £500 built in. Ticket prices had been kept low and the event was sold out. The group would still need to request a subsidy from the town council for future events – possibly in the summer and next New Year.</p> <p>ii. Areas suggested for improvement were entertainment in the square between midnight and 1am, drafting contracts in advance and insurance arrangements. The group was thanked for its hard work and excellent collaboration with the town council and community. Any further proposals would be submitted by the group to the town council for consideration.</p>
	<i>The Committee reconvened to consider the following items:</i>	
3	To deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting	<p>The minutes were agreed as accurate.</p> <p>Matters arising were discussed as follows:</p> <p>a. Totnes Matters had been discussed at a recent Neighbourhood Plan meeting and it had been agreed to recommend the early publication of an edition, dedicated to this initiative.</p> <p>b. Link Councillor role: to be finalised with the Community Engagement Policy. Discussed under agenda item below.</p> <p>c. Dart Harbour Forward Vision. Deferred as discussed under agenda item below.</p>
4	To receive a review of the New Year celebrations	Item raised and discussion recorded above.

5	To discuss proposal to re-establish the River Dart Non-Beneficiaries Users Group	Deferred to next meeting. JH and PB to investigate and report back to the next meeting.
6	To review the implementation of the Community Engagement policy	Deferred to next meeting. The policy will be reviewed and targets incorporated
7	To ratify amended Link Councillor document	Deferred to next meeting. The amended document will be presented to the committee and prepared for Full Council.
8	To discuss a process for using Participatory Budgeting	It was proposed that this method of assigning budgets be adopted so as to help make decisions on how to allocate spend funding by including the community. The Community grants pot was suggested as the preferred initial option, whereby community, voluntary and sometimes statutory groups propose projects for funding . Then they present them at a decision day event where residents vote on which should receive funding. This has, historically, been the most popular model in the UK. This is intended to be an enjoyable event with full participation from community groups to ensure that all groups are represented. RECOMMEND: That the process of Participatory Budgeting be trialled for the allocation of Paige Adams grants.
9	To receive any update on Open Space	The SHDC draft proposal for its green infrastructure plan has been released. The acquisition of green space through any developments would need to be fully considered and proposals for its management to be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.
10	To receive any update on Borough Park	SHDC had conducted a strategic leisure review undertaken by consultants, and this was expected to recommend that all facilities in the South Hams and West Devon are managed by a single provider , but would also assess local options in Totnes and Dartmouth. It remained unclear how this would be achieved. Concern was raised about the management of the skate park. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at the next meeting.
11	To receive any update on the Mansion and Caring Town Totnes	The full report on the Mansion would be considered at the next Full Council meeting where options would be discussed. Community involvement was key to any progress and there would be an Open Day on 21 February. Caring Town Totnes had been using a room in the Mansion to hold open sessions.
12	To receive an update on the First World War Working Group and staffing requirements.	The notes of the last meeting were summarised: projects under consideration included tree planting, Major Willis plaque and model of flight of birds. The group would liaise with the Shady Garden project. Clarification to be sought on the future constitution of the group and its relationship with the Council..

13	To discuss policies list and agree which policies should be reviewed by the committee.	This committee would be responsible for reviewing the Community Engagement Policy. Item to be discussed further at the next meeting when a comprehensive list of relevant policies would be presented to be agreed and reviewed by the committee.
14	Dates and location of future meetings	Monday 30 March 2015 at 10am in the Guildhall.

END

MAYOR