

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

**MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2017 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES**

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

Apologies: Councillor Cohen

In Attendance: Catherine Marlton (Deputy Town Clerk), Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk),Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), District Councillor Green, District Councillor Birch, Soundart Radio, 1 member of the press and 3 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.  Reports from County and District Councillors  *The Council will convene.* | Members of the public spoke about the following matters:  A member of the public spoke to raise the profile of the credit union which provides help with debt and encourages savers. The branch in Totnes is located in Birdwood House and it open 10am – 12pm Friday and Saturday.  A member of the public spoke about the recycling centre and refurnish. He was disappointed that Refurnish was closed over Christmas which meant 3 old maps of the area ended up in the rain at the Recycling Centre. He asked if a canopy could be placed over part of the collection area. Cllr R Adams directed him to Devon County Council as they own the site.  A member of the public spoke on the issue of lack of youth provision and an issue of drug use in the town. Cllr Whitty explained that Caring Town are involved in coordinating support for youth services and asked for the member of the public to contact himself to discuss further.  **In addition to the reports circulated on the agenda**  Councillor Vint  Cllr Vint report that the £2500 drug awareness funding from DCC had been confirmed.  Cllr Piper asked what was happening with Parkers Barns. Cllr Whitty explained that the NP had identified that there was a clear need for this to be social housing, subsidised by a Housing Association. Cllr Vint agreed to talk the matter through further with the SHDC Affordable Housing Officer and the Neighbourhood Plan group.  Councillor Green  Cllr Green explained that DCC have made significant cuts to youth services and member s of the public should think carefully when electing local members.  Cllr Green reported SHDC are planning to be more dementia friendly. Cllr M Adams explained that there is a dementia café at Totnes Boating Association on the last Friday of the month.  Cllr Piper asked why the T3 area was still in the Local Plan. Cllr Green explained that he understood the rationale was that if it was totally removed at this time it would be against the process but he hoped it would be protected in the short term and removed from the final document.  Councillor Birch  Cllr Birch reiterated that the reference to 70 houses allocated for the T3 area should be removed as it reduces the credibility of the Joint Plan.  Cllr Hodgson asked all Councillors to impress on Berry Pomeroy Parish that they needed a Neighbourhood Plan. |
| 4 | To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :   1. Full Council 5th December 2016 2. Planning Committee 15th December 2016 | It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Minutes of the following meetings:   1. Full Council 5th December 2016 2. Planning Committee 15th December 2016 |
| 5 | To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.   1. Full Council 5th December 2016 2. Planning Committee 15th December 2016 | Item 5 regarding Glysophate should go to Operations Committee.  Item 6 Councillor Hodgson raised that the statement made by the Town Council was deeply regrettable.  No comments. |
| 6 | To note the draft 2017/18 Budget and to discuss the following budgetary requests and proposals:  a. To receive a proposal to fund a dedicated Visitor and Tourist Information Officer.  b. To receive a request from Totnes Museum Trust for grant funding of £11,300 in the 2017/18 Budget.  c. To receive a request from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for an allocation of £15,000 in the 2017/18 Budget. | A report was circulated at the meeting by Cllr Hodgson which prosed employing a Visitor Information Officer. After much discussion it was proposed to convene a new Tourism Working Group to assess the current services, future provision and budgets, with the Destination Manager being a key member.  The hope is that a proposal can be put together in time for the 30th January budget meeting so funds can be allocated if viable. It was **RESOLVED** (with two abstentions) to form a Tourism Working Group.  Cllr Westacott raised there is a pecuniary interest for trustees. Cllr M Adams and Cllr Westacott left the room. Cllr Whitty asked for clarification. He felt he did not have a pecuniary interest. He explained he would talk to the proposal but not vote. Cllr Whitty introduced the bid from the Museum. Cllr R Adams asked for the accounts and Cllr Whitty agreed he would circulate these. Cllr Whitty then left the room to allow the remaining Councillors to consider the proposal.  *At this point the Council* ***RESOLVED*** *to exclude the press and public “by reason of the confidential nature of the business” to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*  Councillors were unsure that all of the possible partnership options for the Museum had been explored and asked the Heritage Councillors (Cllr Piper) to look into this in more detail and report back. It was **RESOLVED** (with two abstentions) to form a Working Group of Cllr Piper, Cllr Sweet, Cllr Simms, Cllr Barker and Cllr Hodgson to liaise on this matter in more detail and to review the museum accounts.  *The public meeting reconvened.*  Cllr Vint declared a personal interest.  The NP Coordinator explained that because of external delays beyond the control of the Steering Group further funding was needed for the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that further details were needed regarding the breakdown of accounts and outlining the grant funding received to date. This document will be circulated prior to the Budget meeting on 30th January to aid discussions. |
| 7 | To approve a nomination for Councillor Sweett to join the Operations Committee. | Agreed. |
| 8 | To note the decision on referendum principles for Town and Parish Councils. | Noted. |
| 9 | To note the date of the next meeting on **Monday 30th January 2017 at 7pm** in the Guildhall. | Noted.  Budget training for all Councillors was set for Tuesday 17th February at 10am in the Guildhall. |

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Catherine Marlton

Town Clerk