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

**MONDAY 6th MARCH 2017 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES**

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

Apologies: Councillors Sweett and Hart-Williams

In Attendance: Catherine Marlton (Town Clerk), Christina Bewley (Deputy Town Clerk),Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), District Councillor Green, 1 member 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.  Reports from County and District Councillors  *The Council will convene.* | Members of the public spoke about the following matters:  A member of the public raised concerns that the closure of a local solicitors firm resulted in the loss of important old documents relating to the Town, and this will happen again with the planned closure of another solicitors in the town.  A member of the public asked why advertising consent has not been required for the proposed Rainbow Crossing which he believes is advertising the LGBT cause. A handout giving further details on the issue was provided.  A member of the public gave details of the benefits St Mary’s Partnership can give to the Town’s heritage areas and asked that Totnes Town Council joins the partnership.  A member of the public advised that she had attended a previous meeting of the Council when the banning of Glyphosate was discussed and would like to know why it is taking so long to reach agreement on it. She stated that SHDC has already banned its use and asked that the Council does the same.  A member of the public wanted to give her support to the funding bid on the agenda for a Tourism Officer for the town.  District Councillor John Birch  Cllr Birch went through the written report provided.  The draft JLP has been approved. Reinvestment funds of £15950, to assist communities effected by major developments, are to be allocated but the 5 applications for Totnes are going to be rejected. Cllr Birch believes Totnes will be effected and should receive some of the funding. He has proposed to SHDC that £40000 should be used for groups from Totnes.  SHDC’s consultation on charging charities and community groups for parking during events will come to the Planning Committee. It will only raise around £3000 and Cllr Birch does not support the proposal.  Questions were raised about developments planned for KEVICCs site and the all-weather pitch. Cllr Birch advised that KEVICCs would have the answers to this and that the all-weather pitch will not be effected by any developments.  District Councillor Green  The Homeless shelter is due to be demolished in April. The new building will be ready for use around Nov/Dec. Cllr Hodgson enquired about the provision during the interim and Cllr Green advised that a building across the road will be used for providing meals but not overnight accommodation.  Cllr Green gave his reasons for supporting the JLP. Any delay in approving the JLP could have caused problems. Dartington will be increasing housing by 60% which is going to be an issue.  County & District Councillor Vint  Cllr Vint went through the written report provided.  He had concerns over the JLP and the lack of consultation. Full plans were only provided 1 ½ weeks before Councillors had to vote. It had to be approved because the alternative was a 6 month delay which would have resulted in problems. Cllr Vint felt it was not a proper consultation as responses had to relate to planning law only. |
| 4 | To elect the Mayor for 2017/18. Councillor Rosie Adams has been proposed by Councillor Marion Adams and seconded by Councillor Ray Hendriksen.  To note that Mayor Choosing will take place on Thursday 18th May 2017 in the Guildhall. | Cllr R Adams was voted in as Mayor for 2017/18.  Noted. |
| 5 | To discuss a proposal for a St Mary’s Partnership | The proposal was agreed. |
| 6 | To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :   1. Full Council 9th January 2017 2. Planning Committee 12th January 2017 3. Full Council 6th February 2017 4. People Committee 9th February 2017 5. Operations Committee 23rd February 2017 6. Planning Committee 23rd February 2017 7. Confidential notes to the Personnel Committee 6th February 2017 8. Confidential notes to the Full Council meeting 6th February 2017 9. Confidential 30th Jan Full Council | 6a) Minutes not available.  6b) Agreed.  Item 8 – the Clerk has made enquiries but no response has been received yet.  6c) Agreed.  6d) Agreed.  Item 5 – discussed by Cllr Whitty  Item 8 (1st Rec) – the issue was discussed and it was agreed that a Working Group should be set up to look at the location of the bench as well as reviewing the no drinking zone.  Cllr Hodgson said the no alcohol zone in the streets might cover this and we should check to see if it did and if needed seek an extension to cover this area  Item 8 (2nd Rec) – the issue was discussed and it was agreed that Councillor lead investigations into setting up a system to send out 18th birthday cards could be undertaken.  Item 10 – deferred to next meeting.  6e) Agreed.  Item 3 - Cllr Hodgson raised her concerns regarding this issue.  Item 6 – Recommendation agreed.  Item 9 – Recommendation agreed.  Item 10 – Recommendation agreed.  Item 11 – It was agreed that enquiries should be made to see whether the box can be kept for a different purpose if it has not already been removed.  6f) Agreed. |
| 7 | To consider any matters arising from the Minutes and to approve any recommendations from Committees to include:  A proposal from Cllr Hodgson ‘I propose that we ban the use of Glyphosate on Town Council owned land’ | Agreed. |
| 8 | To set a date for the Annual Town Meeting, which must be held between 1st March and 1st June. Committees are asked to put forward topics for the meeting. | The date of 31st May 2017 was agreed.  Committees should consider topics to put forward for the meeting.  Participatory budgeting will be included. |
| 9 | To agree how to allocate expenditure from the agreed Community Projects budget in the 2017/18 financial year. | The Clerk’s report on options for allocating the £46000 between Tourism, Heritage and Arts was discussed.  Tourism: The increase in the Destination Manager’s hours, the additional webhosting and updates, and the thank you event totalling to £6000 of the bid were agreed. The remaining £10700 of the bid was agreed to be earmarked for Tourism but further discussions will be held to decide how it will be spent.  Arts: The bid of £13800 was discussed and it was agreed that this amount would be earmarked to promote Arts projects in the town. It was suggested that the funding is used more strategically. The funding for the Arts Officer of £4,000 was agreed and the allocation of the rest of the funds should be discussed in an Arts/Cultural Working Group and brought back to FC for agreement.  Heritage: The bid of £11300 to support the Museum was discussed. Cllrs Westacott, Whitty and M Adams declared interest. It was agreed that £11300 would be earmarked for the Museum, with £4200 being for staff costs, but the remainder would be subject to terms and conditions that still need to be agreed through a Heritage Working Group. |
| 10 | *The Council will be asked to* ***RESOLVE*** *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.* | *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.* |
| 11 | To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :   1. Confidential notes to the Personnel Committee 6th February 2017 2. Confidential notes to the Full Council meeting 6th February 2017 3. Confidential 30th Jan Full Council | Confidential minutes were agreed. |
| 12 | To note the date of the next meeting:  **Monday 3rd April 2016 at 7pm.** | This was noted and the meeting ended at 10.25pm. |

END

MAYOR