

**MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2017 AT THE GUILDHALL OFFICES TOTNES**

**Present:** Cllr A Simms (Chair), Cllr M Elliot-Smith, Cllr K Sermon, Cllr J Sweett, and Cllr T Whitty.  
**In Attendance:** Sara Halliday (Administrator), Public and Press.  
**Apologies:** Cllr N Hart-Williams, Cllr B Piper.

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.	The apologies from Cllrs Hart-Williams and Piper were accepted and noted.
<i>The Committee will adjourn for the following item:</i>		
	Public Engagement: A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Committee or other items that affect Totnes.	Susanna Griffith and Rob Tilsey (residents of Totnes) spoke about the condition of the Mill Leat, the complications of who owns the land and water, and their wish to clean up both the water and overhanging vegetation. It was <b>AGREED</b> that item 13 would be moved up the agenda for discussion as the issues were linked.
<i>The Committee will reconvene to consider the following items:</i>		
2	To note the Totnes Sub-Aqua Club's offer to clean up the Mill Leat.	It was agreed that a long term solution on the upkeep of the Mill Leat should be found. The offer of the Totnes Sub-Aqua Club to carry out a clean-up was supported, but they need to be mindful of the health and safety risks from the water and should liaise with the Dart Harbour Authority. It was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> to Full Council that TTC: investigate with the Land Registry ownership of the land adjacent to the Leat; and to impress on land owners their responsibilities in maintaining it.
3	To deal with any matters arising from 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2017.	Minutes agreed.  Item 3 – Agreed by Full Council.  Item 4 – Deferred by Full Council. The Town Clerk is going to speak to SHDC about the DAAT site, as the Borough Park proposal is SHDC, not TTC, owned land.
4	To elect a Deputy Chair.	Councillor Jo Sweett was elected Deputy Chair.
5	To discuss the homeless and drug issues in the town centre.	It was agreed that the current situation in the town centre of people begging and using drugs should not be seen as acceptable, and that local people and businesses should be encouraged to report incidents to the local police using the 101 number in order to have recorded evidence of the problem in the town. Those who give money should be encouraged to donate to the various organisations in the town who can give help and advice – the Freedom Centre and Marketplace Drop In Centre are doing good work. It was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> to Full Council that TTC: takes a zero tolerance position on begging in the town; work with and support the Police in their enforcing this position using existing laws available to them; and for better coherence between the various local organisations in Totnes (e.g TTC, CTIE, Marketplace, Chamber of Commerce).
6	To consider a Community Engagement Plan.	To be carried forward to the next meeting. The policy has been accepted by Full Council and Cllr Whitty is to produce a paper on implementation.
7	To review the Link Councillors following the	Clarity is required on what meetings and groups Link Councillors should be engaging with. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Council Office updates the next

	new committee memberships from 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2017.	Committee on the induction process for Link Councillors given recent changes in responsibilities.
8	<i>NP and OSSR&amp;WB Policy review.</i> Note: OSSR&WB Policy is on the TTC website under the NP section.	Cllr Whitty updated that pre-consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan would soon commence. On OSSR&WB Cllr Whitty suggested that allotments are reviewed at the next meeting, which was <b>AGREED</b> .
9	Update on 18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday cards to young people within the town and to consider the proposal to offer the Guildhall for the politics students to hold debates sponsored by the TC.	Cllr Sweet updated that the data held in the Open Register can be used to send birthday cards without breaching any data protection laws and costs £24.50 from SHDC. St John's School had to postpone holding their school council in the Guildhall this week, but use by local school groups is to be encouraged with The Grove School and KEVICCS. It was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> to Full Council that the open register is purchased in order to: see how many people will turn 18 in the following year; and to produce an estimate of the cost in sending 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday cards.
10	To consider the National Association of Local Councils' letter inviting councils to light a beacon on 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 as part of the First World War commemorations.	It was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> to Full Council that this is supported. There is time to plan for the event and TTC already has a beacon and basket.
11	To consider the Seafarers UK invitation to fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017.	There is support for this event, but it was acknowledged that Full Council has already approved flying the Rainbow Flag from 28 August to 3 <sup>rd</sup> September which causes a clash on the final day. It was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> to Full Council that: the Red Ensign is flown on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017, either alongside or instead of the Rainbow flag; that a flag is purchased for ~£35; and for former Merchant Navy members to be invited to the flag hoisting, with Cllrs encouraged to attend (Cllr Elliot-Smith is happy to attend).
12	To note the South Hams District Council consultation on parking permit proposals.	Noted.
13	To consider the request for TTC support for a festival of body acceptance, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> October 2017.	Cllr Sermon explained the aims of the body acceptance event which will be the first held. It was agreed that this should bring people into the town, as well as drawing on the skills and experience of local people at the event. It was agreed to <b>RECOMMEND</b> to Full Council that TTC supports this initiative and allows the TTC crest to be used on any publicity material.
14	To note the date of the next meeting.	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July at 9.45am. Cllr Sermon advised that she will be unable to attend.

CHAIR