**MINUTES OF THE PEOPLE COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY 19TH APRIL 2018 AT THE GUILDHALL OFFICES TOTNES**

Present: Councillors A Simms (Chair), M Parker, B Piper, K Sermon, J Sweett and T Whitty.

In Attendance: Public, Press and Sara Halliday (Administrator).

Apologies: None.

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| **No** | **Subject** | **Comments** |
| 1 | To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council. | There were no apologies. |
| 2 | To address any matters arising from 8th February 2018.  | Item 3 – Agreed by Full Council with minor amendment. It was confirmed that the use of names and dates of birth conforms with Greater Data Protection Regulations that come into force in May 2018. Item 4 – An update under agenda item 5.Item 5 – Agreed by Full Council.Item 6 – Agreed by Full Council, and an update under agenda item 8. Item 7 – Agreed by Full Council.  |
| 3 | To formulate a response to the questions (see enclosed document) posed by Barclays Bank following the announcement of the closure of the Totnes branch. | To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the following response: *- What do you believe will be the biggest impact of the closure of Totnes branch on the local community?* No banking facility in the High Street (there are two provisions in Fore Street). This will impact on businesses and market traders in High Street. Additional pressure on the Post Office which is already busy. *- What do you believe will be the biggest impact of the closure of Totnes branch on customers of the branch?* Impact on the elderly and those who do not have computer access for, or confidence in, online banking. Impact on businesses and traders in the town. *- What alternative ways to bank do you believe need to be provided to help customers and the community adapt to this change?* Advice to customers about the changes and use of the Post office or online banking. Advice to customers on how to switch banks to those that have a physical presence in Totnes. Provision of a mobile banking facility to help those who need branch access. |
|  | *The Committee will adjourn for the following item:* |
|  | 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. | A member of the public spoke about ‘Period Poverty’ - the impact on young girls missing school because their families cannot afford sanitary products and the detrimental effect on their education. Considerations include setting up donation points in Morrisons and Greenlife, and how to best distribute the products (e.g. via KEVICC, Totnes youth services, Caring Town, youth organisations, Market Place Ministries). Cllr Simms has contacted a number of companies to request donations of their products, which has received a positive response. It was AGREED that this issue is a concern, that distribution is important to making this initiative work, and that the People Committee would watch how this develops. |
|  | *The Committee will reconvene to consider the following items:* |
| 4 | To note the Police’s proposal for a youth project in Totnes to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour and drugs, and prevent them from becoming missing persons. | Cllr Sweett explained the background to the scheme as a way of guiding young people. It was AGREED that no one scheme will suit all young people and that a range of art, music and sport projects are welcomed, but all will be competing for resources. To RECOMMEND to Full Council: that Totnes Town Council is supportive of the initiative; and that PCSO Powell is made aware of the Paige Adams grant application timescale should the Police wish to apply (as well as suggesting she investigate grant funding from National Lottery ‘Awards for All’ and various bank community funding sources). |
| 5 | To update findings on improving community links in Totnes. | Cllr Parker updated that she has made contact with a number of community groups to understand what provision is available in the town, including attending Caring Town meetings. To RECOMMEND to Full Council that the following organisations are included for Councillor representation on outside bodies (if the organisations request council representation): Network of Wellbeing; Caring Town; Bridgetown Alive; Daisy Childcare; and Rainbow Childcare. |
| 6 | To review the Community Engagement Action Plan (as agreed by Full Council in June 2016). | Cllr Whitty proposed that following the well-attended Frome training the previous week, it was an opportune time to review the Community Engagement Action Plan. It was AGREED that more community engagement is required, and that the current Full Council format can limit public interaction. To RECOMMEND to Full Council that the Community Engagement Policy: is reviewed by a Working Group of Councillors who attended the Frome training; and is incorporated into revised Standing Orders over the next year, with a view to being fully implemented by the newly elected council in 2019. |
| 7 | To consider a request from local group Proud2Be to raise the Rainbow Flag over Totnes Civic Hall on Monday 27th August 2018 until Monday 3rd September, to mark the sixth Totnes Pride week. | To RECOMMEND to Full Council that the Rainbow Flag is flown over the Civic Hall from 27th August until 2nd September in support of Totnes Pride week. [Note: Full Council has already agreed to fly the Red Ensign on 3rd September on the Civic Hall.]  |
| 8 | To update on participation on the Heritage Working Group for the ‘Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute’ event on 11th November 2018.  | An email has been sent to community groups inviting them to take part in this event. To date only St Mary’s Church has responded.  |
| 9 | To note the Market Place Ministries monthly reports for February and March 2018. | The figures for February were noted. Cllr Whitty updated that there has been some success getting people into housing. |
| 10 | To update on the plans for late night shopping 2018. | Cllr Sweett declared a current personal interest and that she previously had a pecuniary interest.Cllr Sweett updated from a recent meeting held with Redhouse Events and SHDC Cllr John Green about the late night shopping events. There were concerns that Redhouse Events have moved away from the original brief, that the evenings have become too commercial, and that the organisers are not engaging with the town (business or community) about what to include at these events. It is understood that late night shopping will be an agenda item for the Totnes Chamber of Commerce AGM on 23rd May 2018.To RECOMMEND to Full Council that:* the Clerk sends a letter to Redhouse Events asking them to engage with: the Town Council early about their plans for the Christmas Markets; and the community – both with the public and businesses;
* the proposed quarterly meeting is held before the next People Committee so that key points can be reviewed by the Committee and Full Council informed of plans; and
* Link Councillors for Business, Arts and Fair Trade attend the next quarterly meeting and the Safety Advisory Group with SHDC and offer to host the meeting in the Guildhall.
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| 11 | To note the Torbay and South Devon NHS Health and Care Insights newsletter for February 2018. | Noted. |
| 12 | To note the date of the next meeting – Thursday 14th June 2018 at 10.00am.  | It was AGREED to bring the meeting forward to 9.30am. |

END

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CHAIR