

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Councillors Hodgson (Chair), Boswell, Harper, Whitty, Westacott MBE, R Adams, Cohen, Hendriksen, Paine, Piper, Sermon, Horsburgh and Vint

Apologies: Councillors Connelly and M Adams

Not Present: Councillor Simms

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), District Councillor Green, 2 members of the press and 9 members of the public

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.	Councillor Boswell is no longer a Trustee of the Elizabethan Museum and will amend her Register of Interests.
3	<p><i>The Council will adjourn for the following items:</i></p> <p><u>Public Question Time:</u> 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.</p> <p><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u> <i>The Council will convene.</i></p>	<p>Members of the public spoke about the following items:</p> <p>A representative from Totnes Living Streets asked if the Council could monitor visitor numbers and shop vacancies in the town to assess the impact of the traffic arrangements. He also asked if the Council would consider holding a referendum on the traffic situation. The Mayor explained that the Town Council does not have the resources for either of these at present but the NP referendum may offer an opportunity. County Councillor Vint will ask DCC if they have any data relevant to this.</p> <p>A member of the public pointed out that the town has excess rubbish lying around, including bicycles which are left chained to racks for months. The District Council has been informed.</p> <p>A member of the public stated that litter bins have been removed from around the town and he would like to know who has removed them and why.</p> <p>A request was made for the local police inspector to attend more Council meetings.</p> <p>A request was made for the Town Council to respond to Sarah Wollaston MP over her stance on refugees. This was referred to the People Committee.</p> <p>The new Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement (TRAYE) project (funded by the TAP grant) Youth Worker introduced herself to the Council and gave an outline of her new role.</p> <p>County Councillor Vint handed out a written report. See attached. He will provide the Minutes of the Waste and Minerals Review meeting to the next planning Meeting for discussion.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to write to the Boundary Commission to object to the amount of money being spent on boundary reviews in a time of austerity.</p> <p>Councillor Green was thanked for his help with re-siting the homeless shelter.</p>
4	To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings : a. Full Council 4 th January 2016	It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes.

	<p>b. Operations Committee 18th January 2016</p> <p>c. Planning and Place Committee 14th January 2016</p> <p>d. People Committee 13th January 2016</p>	
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes and to approve any recommendations from Committees.</p>	<p><u>Full Council</u> Item 5 The new Grove School Crossing will be installed this month and the surrounding area of road will be repaired at a cost of £80,000: £55,000 from Linden Homes and £25,000 from S106 money. Developers cannot be asked to pay for maintenance but only for capital projects which is why Linden will not pay the full cost.</p> <p><u>Operations Committee</u> <u>Item 6</u> It was RESOLVED to allow the proposed alteration to the agreement with Fernbank. Item 7 - Investment of General Reserve It was RESOLVED that the Investments WG should be convened to look at the issue of investing the General Reserve in more detail. Item 8 - Mayoral and Civic Budget This was discussed and it was RESOLVED that the present level of £6,500 be maintained. The People Committee will discuss guidelines for how the money can be spent.</p> <p><u>Planning and Place Committee</u> Item3 Application 5 – no comments have been recorded. Item5 It was RESOLVED to give delegated authority to the planning Committee to respond to the consultation.</p> <p><u>People Committee</u> Item 4 The Mayoral/Civic Budget was discussed in some detail and it was agreed that guidelines for expenditure will be drafted by Councillor Whitty, the Deputy Clerk and any ex Mayors who would like to be involved. This will then be presented to Full Council. It was RESOLVED that the two budget lines for mayoral and civic events be combined into one code. Item 6 It was RESOLVED not to look into the Boundary Review issue at this time because councillors do not want to alienate neighbouring parishes or interfere with Neighbourhood Plans being developed. Item 9 An update was received about grant funding. The TAP applications were unsuccessful and we await news of the CRPF application. The Deputy Clerk was congratulated for her success in getting a free defibrillator from the BHF.</p>
6	<p>To consider two further requests for inclusion in the 2016/17 budget and to agree the precept amount for 2016/17.</p>	<p>Councillor Whitty and Westacott MBE declared a personal interest as Trustees of the Museum and as informal helpers with Totnes Gardens.</p> <p>The request from Totnes Gardens was considered. It was</p>

		<p>RESOLVED to include £1,100 in the budget for the maintenance of the land at Coronation Road but that we will get other quotes for the grass cutting which may lower this expense.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The Council discussed the allocation of money for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council had a responsibility to its contracted NP staff because, at present, they did not know for how long their contracts would continue.</p> <p><i>The Council reconvened.</i></p> <p>It was RESOLVED to include £20,000 for the NP budget. The Town Council would like to see a timeline and work plan from the NP Steering Group before committing the funds. The deadline for the NP was also discussed and it was RESOLVED to ask the NP Steering Group to complete the Plan by the end of 2016 on the grounds that there is a pressing need for it to be in place as soon as possible.</p> <p>Councillors Boswell and Harper left the meeting at 9pm.</p> <p>The request from the Museum for £10,000 was discussed. It was RESOLVED to award a lower amount of £5,000 and that this money would be subject to a Service Level Agreement to determine the outcomes.</p> <p>Having considered these matters and included the three items above, it was RESOLVED to agree the budget for 2016/17 and to request a precept from SHDC for £300,953. This is equivalent to a Band D rate of £114.53.</p>
7	To elect Councillor Sermon to her proposed choice of Council Committee which is the People Committee.	Councillor Sermon was elected to the People Committee.
8	To note the Minutes of the DALC Larger Councils Sub Committee on 21 st January 2016.	These were noted.
9	To note the date of the Mayor’s Civic Event: Tuesday 19 th April 2016.	The date has now been changed to Sunday 17 th April, which was noted.
10	To receive an update about the response from the EU on Whitecleaves Quarry.	This was received from Councillor Hodgson.
11	To note the Police Report dated 4/1/2016.	This was noted.

	<i>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.</i>	<i>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.</i>
12	To note the minutes from the informal meeting of the Personnel Committee which met to discuss the management of long term staff sickness in the TIC.	<p>These were noted and the item was discussed. The Town Clerk gave the following updates: A letter had been received from the Totnes Image Bank stating that it was very unhappy with the reduced opening times at the TIC.</p> <p>The Chairman of Personnel explained the actions behind the notes from the Informal Meeting and the item was discussed. It was RESOLVED to ask the Town Clerk and the TIC Manager to produce options for the delivery of visitor information services. These will be presented to councillors by the end of February and will tie in with the councillors’ session with the tourism consultant on 22nd February. It was also agreed that some of the tourism consultancy could be used to work with the Town Clerk and TIC Manager to prepare these options.</p> <p><u>Operations Committee</u> Item 9 It was RESOLVED to serve notice on the tenant to vacate the Guildhall garage so that it can be repaired.</p>
13	To note the date of the next meeting: Monday 7th March 2016 at 7pm	<p>This was noted.</p> <p>A date was also set for the informal meeting of the Trustees of the Paige Adams Charity: Wednesday 2nd March at 10am in the Guildhall.</p>

END

MAYOR