

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES**

Present: Councillors Hodgson (Chair), Boswell, Westacott MBE, Harper, Vint, Horsburgh, A Adams, R Adams, Piper, Paine, Simms and Connelly

Apologies: Councillors Hendriksen, Cohen, Sermon and Whitty

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Catherine Marlton (Deputy Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), 2 members of the press and 20 members of the public

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies.	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> 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	<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>Members of the public spoke about the following matters:</p> <p>A member of Totnes Living Streets spoke about changes to traffic in the High St since the Traffic Order was reversed, all of which he perceives to be negative. He would like to know what measures will be put in place to reduce rat running.</p> <p>A question was asked about the end of year accounts, Paige Adams accounts and the closure of the TIC.</p> <p>A comment was made about the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, which it was considered did not reflect the evening's discussion.</p> <p>A resident who has been keenly involved in projects within this and other historic towns feels that the TIC staff are very helpful. As an incomer to the town she said she often feels resented and wanted to point out that many incomers contribute a great deal to the town.</p> <p>A resident spoke about the Traffic Order and the through traffic which he thinks causes disruption.</p> <p>A member of STAG spoke about the "Celebrate Totnes" event on Saturday and wanted to remind everyone that it was DCC who were in the wrong over the Traffic Order. She said that the ETO was unlawful and, if it had been done correctly, there would now be money available for Shared Space.</p> <p>Residents who attended the Town Meeting wanted to know when their motion to save the TIC would be considered.</p> <p>A resident spoke about traffic and the long history of trying to sort out the situation in the High St. He considers that new developments around the area will put more pressure on road space.</p> <p>A resident considered that there is a misunderstanding over the Court Order and why it was unlawful: the Community Bus was compromised and therefore this should have triggered a public open enquiry, which did not happen. She felt that the accident statistics from DCC are inaccurate and cannot be trusted. She handed in traffic statistics supplied by DCC under a FOI request.</p> <p>A resident said that a new traffic speed limit should be introduced because 20 mph is too fast.</p> <p>Ownership of the Leat was queried by a resident who would like to see it tidied up.</p> <p>A question was asked about when the decision on the TIC would be made public and it was explained that this would be after staff had been told about any changes.</p> <p>The Report was noted and Inspector Tomlinson gave a summary of the</p>



		<p>Planning Committee 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016</p> <p>Cllr R Adams fed back after meeting with the Duke of Somerset. The positive messages were a promise to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan and the provision of 44 affordable housing units. Minutes of this meeting will be circulated to all Councillors.</p> <p>Item 4b Cllr Boswell asked why item 4B was listed as a refusal. Cllr R Adams explained that Councillors felt that a replacement tree should be planted in order to have Town Council approval.</p> <p>Item 4C Cllr M Adams declared an interest.</p> <p>Item 7 It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to write another letter to Natural England.</p> <p>Item 8 It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to write another letter to Greg Clark MP</p>
6	To elect councillors as members of Working Groups and representatives on Outside Organisations.	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to elect councillors to positions as presented. These will be confirmed at the AGM on 21 <sup>st</sup> May.
7	To discuss the following proposal from Councillor Hodgson: Totnes Town Council requests that Devon County Council implements as a matter of urgency the shared space arrangements in Totnes Fore Street and High Street as put forward by Mike Jones, DCC Engineer, in 2013 and agreed at public consultations.	This item was discussed and councillors were agreed that the traffic situation needed further work and support. Shared Space was considered to be an important part of this. It was therefore <b>RESOLVED</b> to support the proposal and to write to DCC.
8	To grant approval for the Totnes Carnival road closures.	It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to support the Totnes Carnival Road Closures request. Cllr Westacott MBE declared an interest.
9	To note the minutes of the DALC County Committee Meeting on 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2016.	These were noted.
10	To discuss a proposal from the TIC Working Group to implement Option 1 of the attached <b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> enclosure.	<p>The Deputy Town Clerk gave an overview of the possible options available to the Town Council, in accordance with the confidential enclosure.</p> <p><i>At this point the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> 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>Councillors asked questions about the Tourism Partnership and how it will work and the Town Clerk explained the development of the Partnership and what stage it is at.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk explained to councillors that, having taken advice from SW Councils, they needed to make a decision because staff posts were</p>

		<p>potentially involved.</p> <p>The following specific points and questions were made:</p> <p>Why does option 2 cost more than option 3? Because in Option 3 you have more income from services.</p> <p>Why is it not an option for the TIC to move into the Mansion? Because the spaces in the building have been allocated for other uses at present.</p> <p>Why is the Totnes Trust wanting to charge rent in the Town Mill? Because they are a charity and cannot afford to subsidise the Council.</p> <p>Tourism businesses have indicated that they will be delivering their services differently, for example online tickets sales, so it makes sense for the TIC to change how it operates in this area.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 on the attachment do not include market rent so the end costs may be higher.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk has met with the TIC staff and they have been formally consulted and informed.</p> <p>Options 2a and 2b were discussed and an explanation was given of the risk involved because of the potential for redundancies.</p> <p>Choosing Option 2 is not a decision to make staff redundant but it is a risk. 2b is more expensive because of the redundancy costs.</p> <p>Option 3 does not allow for any new initiatives and retains the service in its past form.</p> <p>The meaning of Pension Strain Costs was explained and that they can be paid over 3 years.</p> <p>The separation of local and tourist information services was noted.</p> <p>Working with Caring Town Totnes on the local information side was noted.</p> <p>Councillors were presented with a chart comparing opening hours in the information centres in Dartmouth, Brixham and Totnes, which showed that Totnes had the lowest opening hours and the highest costs.</p> <p>Some councillors expressed the need to continue to have an information centre for the town and a feeling on the streets that people do not want change.</p> <p>Worries were expressed about private information points within shops and what would happen if a shop closed down.</p> <p>The Tourism Partnership cannot be progressed on the hope of grant funding.</p> <p>Options 2 and 3 will mean cuts to other Council priorities.</p> <p>A vote was held and, by a majority of 10 votes to 2, the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to implement Option 1 with an amendment that the TIC should remain open until the end of September 2016, if possible.</p>
11	<p>To note the date of the AGM of the Council on <b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at midday</b> and the next meeting on <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7pm.</b></p>	<p>This was noted.</p>

END

MAYOR