MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL MONDAY 9th 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 RESOLVED to receive the apologies.
2	The Mayor will request	There were no amendments.
	confirmation that all Members have made any amendments	
	necessary to their Declaration of	
	Interests, if appropriate.	
3	The Council will adjourn for the	Members of the public spoke about the following matters:
	following items:	A member of Totnes Living Streets spoke about changes to traffic in the High
	Public Question Time: A period	St since the Traffic Order was reversed, all of which he perceives to be
	of 15 minutes will be allowed for	negative. He would like to know what measures will be put in place to
	members of the public to ask	reduce rat running.
	questions or make comment	A question was asked about the end of year accounts, Paige Adams accounts and the closure of the TIC.
	regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Totnes.	
	or other items that affect rothes.	A comment was made about the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, which it was considered did not reflect the evening's discussion.
		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.
		A resident spoke about the Traffic Order and the through traffic which he
		thinks causes disruption.
		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. Residents who attended the Town Meeting wanted to know when their
		motion to save the TIC would be considered.
		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.
		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. A resident said that a new traffic speed limit should be introduced because
		20 mph is too fast.
		Ownership of the Leat was gueried by a resident who would like to see it
		tidied up.
		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.
		The Report was noted and Inspector Tomlinson gave a summary of the

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Re	Reports from County and District Councillors The Council will convene.	 year's statistics. Questions were asked about: The definition of driving in an irresponsible manner and what this means. Are offences of violence automatically referred to Victim Support? There is a system of referral to a large number of voluntary agencies. 10 mph speed limits can't or won't be enforced. Guidance on 20 mph is that it will be controlled by constructive methods so those measures should be in place. Accident data is collected by the Police, not DCC. The Mayor agreed to forward the DCC data that had been handed in earlier to Insp Tomlinson. Domestic violence - are the children referred to Social Services? They are, on a traffic light system of urgency. Homeless people and drug users – what help do they receive? The police role is to resolve the problem, assist where possible and signpost to services. There are examples of volunteers carrying out traffic speed checks which seems to be a visible deterrent – the Inspector will ask the appropriate officer to contact the Town Council about this to see if it would be possible in Totnes. Councillor Vint gave details about the further delay in the Grove School crossing installation. Councillors were in agreement that the crossing should be installed without further delay. Councillor Green confirmed that members of the public can attend the SHDC AGM but cannot speak at the meeting. Councillor Westacott MBE confirmed that the Carnival procession will use an alternative, private car park on Steamer Quay rather than pay £460 to SHDC.
5 To fru ar	o approve and sign the Minutes f the following Meetings : a. Full Council 4 th April 2016 b. Planning and Place Committee 7 th April and 28 th April 2016 c. Personnel Committee 28 th April 2016 d. Annual Town Meeting 26 th April 2016 o consider any matters arising rom the Minutes and to approve ny recommendations from committees.	It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes with the following exception: The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting will be augmented and brought back to full Council. The following matters arose: Planning and Place Committee 7 th April 2016 Item 5 It was RESOLVED to contact Devon Air Ambulance Trust to request their attendance at a Town Council meeting to clarify the costs and procedures involved. Item 10 Discussion was held about the use of pesticides and it was agreed that further discussion was necessary before deciding on a policy. People Committee Councillor Boswell explained that the Queen's Beacon lighting was successful and thanked everyone who helped and took part. The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update about Defibrillators and explained that work is still required by the People Committee to determine where the kit will be placed and how it will be serviced and monitored.

		Planning Committee 28 th April 2016
		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.
		Item 4b Clir Boswell asked why item 4B was listed as a refusal. Clir R Adams explained that Councillors felt that a replacement tree should be planted in order to have Town Council approval. Item 4C Clir M Adams declared an interest. Item 7 It was RESOLVED to write another letter to Natural England. Item 8
		It was RESOLVED to write another letter to Greg Clark MP
6	To elect councillors as members of Working Groups and representatives on Outside Organisations.	It was RESOLVED to elect councillors to positions as presented. These will be confirmed at the AGM on 21 st May.
7	To discuss the following proposal	This item was discussed and councillors were agreed that the traffic
	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.	situation needed further work and support. Shared Space was considered to be an important part of this. It was therefore RESOLVED to support the proposal and to write to DCC.
8	To grant approval for the Totnes Carnival road closures.	It was RESOLVED to support the Totnes Carnival Road Closures request. Cllr Westacott MBE declared an interest.
9	To note the minutes of the DALC	These were noted.
	County Committee Meeting on 21 st March 2016.	
10	To discuss a proposal from the TIC Working Group to implement Option 1 of the attached CONFIDENTIAL enclosure.	The Deputy Town Clerk gave an overview of the possible options available to the Town Council, in accordance with the confidential enclosure. 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.
		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. The Deputy Town Clerk explained to councillors that, having taken advice from SW Councils, they needed to make a decision because staff posts were

		potentially involved.
		The following specific points and questions were made:
		Why does option 2 cost more than option 3? Because in Option 3 you have
		more income from services.
		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.
		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.
		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.
		Options 2 and 3 on the attachment do not include market rent so the end
		costs may be higher.
		The Deputy Town Clerk has met with the TIC staff and they have been
		formally consulted and informed.
		Options 2a and 2b were discussed and an explanation was given of the risk
		involved because of the potential for redundancies.
		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.
		Option 3 does not allow for any new initiatives and retains the service in its
		past form.
		The meaning of Pension Strain Costs was explained and that they can be
		paid over 3 years.
		The separation of local and tourist information services was noted.
		Working with Caring Town Totnes on the local information side was noted.
		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.
		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.
		Worries were expressed about private information points within shops and
		what would happen if a shop closed down.
		The Tourism Partnership cannot be progressed on the hope of grant funding.
		Options 2 and 3 will mean cuts to other Council priorities.
		A vote was held and, by a majority of 10 votes to 2, the Council RESOLVED to
		implement Option 1 with an amendment that the TIC should remain open
		until the end of September 2016, if possible.
11	To note the date of the AGM of	This was noted.
	the Council on Saturday 21st May	
	at midday and the next meeting	
	on Monday 6th June 2016 at	
	7pm.	

END

MAYOR