



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2020 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Cllr J Hodgson (Chair), Cllr Paine, Cllr Luker, Cllr Price, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Vint, Cllr Trow, Cllr Piper, Cllr Allen, Cllr Allford and Cllr Webberley.

Apologies: Cllr Adams, Cllr Hendriksen, Cllr Perkins, Cllr Skinner and Cllr Simms.

In Attendance: Catherine Marlton (Town Clerk), Christina Bewley (minutes), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), Soundart Radio x 1, Press x 1, D.Cllr Birch, and 3 members of the public.

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies and vote on whether to agree.	Apologies were received from Cllr Adams, Cllr Hendriksen, Cllr Perkins, Cllr Skinner and Cllr Simms. The reasons given were read out by the Clerk. It was RESOLVED to accept the apologies.
2	The Mayor will request confirmation that all Members have completed or made any necessary amendments to their Declaration of Interests.	Confirmed.
3	<i>The Council will adjourn for the following items:</i> <u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u>	It was RESOLVED to suspend standing orders a) C.Cllr Hodgson provided a written report. She reported very positive feedback from the Foodbank which received a high level of donations over the Christmas period. She raised concerns about the lack of maintenance of rural roads. Ticklemore St. is very uneven and this was raised with Devon Highways 2 years ago. They have now given their assurance it will be done in March. Cllr Vint raised queries about DCC's Climate Emergency action. b) D.Cllr Birch provided a written report. Cllr Luker questioned why the Action on Empty Homes did not mention compulsory purchase. D.Cllr Birch confirmed that this was an option available to the Council but is a very lengthy and expensive process. He believes there are easier actions to take. Cllr Paine questioned the justification for increasing the Council Tax on empty homes when there could be good reasons for them being empty. Cllr Webberley asked what is meant by an interventionalist approach. D.Cllr Birch explained it is using funds to purchase houses rather than leave it to market forces. D.Cllr Birch explained that SHDC will not build properties due to the right-to-buy regulations. Cllr Vint raised queries about the Climate Change Action Plan. D.Cllr Birch advised that SHDC are going to wait to see how the Citizens Assembly set up by DCC works before considering

		<p>whether a SHDC Citizens Assembly is needed, to avoid any duplication. The District's intention is to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Action Plan will be finalised in May/June when all responses have been received from the consultation process.</p> <p><i>The Council reconvened.</i></p>
4	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings: <i>(Please note confidential minutes can be agreed but any discussion must be held in Part 2):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council 2nd December 2019 b. Council Matters 9th December 2019 c. Planning 19th December 2019 	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes of the following meetings :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council 2nd December 2019 b. Council Matters 9th December 2019 c. Planning 19th December 2019
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes <u>and to approve any recommendations</u> from Committees <i>(Please note confidential recommendations can be agreed but any discussion must be held in Part 2):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council 2nd December 2019 b. Council Matters 9th December 2019 c. Planning 19th December 2019 	<p>The following matters arose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Full Council 2nd December 2019</u> <p>None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. <u>Council Matters 9th December 2019</u> <p>Item 6 – deferred to Item 11 on the agenda. Item 9 – the Clerk has sent out an e-mail but had no response to date. Item 16 – deferred to Part II.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. <u>Planning 19th December 2019</u> <p>None</p>
6	<p>To note any update on the NP (standing item).</p>	<p>Cllr Luker gave a verbal update. The public consultation has now finished after 8 weeks and lots of comments have been received. He will be meeting with the consultants to go through the responses received and amend the draft plan where required.</p> <p>There is a public meeting next Thursday at 4pm to go through the draft Plan. The Town Council are also waiting for a response from SHDC on the draft Plan.</p>
7	<p>To note any update on the Christmas Festival nights (standing item).</p>	<p>The Clerk gave a verbal update on the Christmas Festival budget. It has still to be finalised but the hope is it could be cost neutral. That said with the cancellation of the second night due to severe weather it is more likely to have a cost of around £5,000 from the £10,000 allocated Arts budget. Councillors reported getting good feedback regarding the event.</p>
8	<p>To update on the draft Totnes Community Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan.</p>	<p>Cllr Hodgson reported that the draft Action Plan is still being typed up. It was agreed that the responses received from the Action Planning week would be discussed at a meeting. Cllr Hodgson said that the Climate Change Working Group will be meeting on the last Tuesday of each month at 6pm.</p>

9	To ratify the Events Officer appointment.	It was RESOLVED to ratify the appointment.
10	Councillors are asked to send in contributions to the February 2020 Totnes Directory newsletter – 15 th January 2020 is the deadline.	Noted.
11	To consider the draft budget and set the precept amount for 2020/2021. Please also see the recommendation from Council Matters on 9 th December 2019.	<p>The Clerk explained the results of the Community Budgeting survey and clarified that the decision being taken at this meeting is about the total budget required, not how much is allocated to each line in the budget.</p> <p>Cllr Piper spoke against the recommendation of a 3% increase brought by the Council Matters Committee as he believes the proposed increase in the Precept is too conservative. There is the possibility that the government will introduce a cap on Precept increase in the near future and the Town Council should plan for that.</p> <p>Cllr Piper proposed an increase of 20%.</p> <p>Following further debate Cllr Piper amended his proposal to an increase of 10%.</p> <p>Cllr Webberley proposed a 6% increase as midway between Cllr Piper's proposal and the recommendation from the Council Matters Committee.</p> <p>The final proposal from Cllr Webberley was voted on to become a substantive motion and then voted on again. The 6% increase was carried with 6 Councillors for and 5 against.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to set the Precept increase at 6% for 2020/21.</p>
12	To note the annual Guildhall visitor and income figures.	The Clerk reported that visitor numbers were down this season as a result of closures due to a lack of volunteers. It is hoped that the newly formed Heritage Group will be able to help increase visitor numbers.
13	<p>To consider the following planning applications:</p> <p>3195/19/FUL – READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans Received) Replacement of existing garage/store to provide one dwelling. Glebe Coach House, Manor Way, Totnes, TQ9 5HP.</p> <p>3798/19/HHO - Householder application for alterations and extension, remedial works to existing dwelling including re-roofing and replacement windows (part retrospective). Laurel Cottage, Harpers Hill, Totnes, TQ9 5GG.</p> <p>3824/19/FUL - Alterations to 1 and 2 Steamer Quay to include works within boundaries to demolish existing dividing wall and create car parking for both units, remove and replace existing fences together with replacement automatic sliding gate. 1 & 2 Steamer Quay</p>	<p>Cllr Vint expressed concern that considering planning applications in Full Council meetings restricts the opportunity for public input.</p> <p>No objections were raised to the applications.</p>

	Wharf, Steamer Quay Road, Totnes, TQ9 5AL.	
<p><i>The Council did not 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></p>		
14	To discuss any confidential items from the Council Matters minutes, such as staffing budgets.	It was RESOLVED unanimously to agree the 2019/2020 current staffing budget and the 2020/2021 proposed staffing budget and new structure. Job descriptions and recruitment of the Community Fundraiser, Green Travel and Lengthsman/Maintenance Officer would go to Council Matters as part of the committee’s delegated authority.
15	To note the date and time of the next meeting: Monday 3rd January 2020. Public session from 6.30pm <u>in The Guildhall.</u>	Noted.

Ended

Catherine Marlton
Town Clerk