

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 4th APRIL 2016 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Councillors Hodgson (Chair), Boswell, Harper, Horsburgh, Sermon, Hendricksen, Simms, M Adams, Paine, Connelly, Piper, R Adams, Cohen, Whitty and Westacott MBE

Apologies: Councillor Vint

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant) District Councillor Green, 2 members of the press and 21 members of the public

Before the meeting was opened, the Mayor read out a statement on behalf of the Town Council in response to some questions that had been submitted in advance by members of the public about the TIC.

Councillor Westacott MBE also read out another statement on behalf of the TIC Working Group in response to an email sent by a local business to all businesses who have advertised in the Totnes Guide.

No	Subject	Comments
	Jay Tompt will attend to speak to councillors about the Totnes REconomy Project.	This was received and he was thanked for attending.
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.	There were no amendments.
3	<p><i>The Council adjourned 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 issues:</p> <p>Various comments were made about the TIC, including: that it is in the best location in town and is very accessible; that the TIC could tie in with the Local Entrepreneur Forum; that there are concerns about the loss of income for local businesses if the TIC is closed; a query about the potential increase in rent if the TIC remains in the Town Mill and whether or not it was the fault of the Totnes Trust as to why the TIC needs to be moved and whether we could negotiate; a question was asked about the future of the TIC staff (the Town Clerk explained that this is confidential matter which cannot be discussed with members of the public); a local business woman explained that she had sent the email about the TIC to the advertisers and that she did not consider that her information was incorrect.</p> <p>A representative from the Network of Wellbeing spoke to the Council about Share Shop. They need a venue to pilot the Scheme in Totnes and asked for the Council's support. They are interested in any available spaces that could be a venue.</p> <p>A representative from Totnes Chamber of Commerce and Traffic and Transport Forum spoke about the letter from the Town Council to the TTTF about Shared Space on Station Road and the dangers on the right turn. She did not feel that the TTTF had given this proper consideration.</p> <p>A local business woman explained that areas near Totnes have been earmarked for badger culling and she is very concerned not just about the local wildlife but about the impact that a badger cull has on the rural economy in high season. This was referred to the Planning Committee and it was agreed that we would speak to Natural England to find out more information.</p> <p>During Public Question Time, it was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow all members of the public to speak who wished to do so.</p>

	<p><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u></p> <p><i>The Council convened.</i></p>	<p>Councillor Green added that SHDC now has a new website to support businesses called www.devonbusinessvoice.co.uk.</p> <p>He was asked about accommodation for refugees in the area and explained that Foxhole and White House at Dartington have been renovated and there is still a lot of local interest.</p>
4	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council 21st March 2016 b. Operations Committee 14th March 2016 c. Planning and Place Committee 17th March 2016 d. People Committee 9th March 2016 	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes.</p>
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes and to approve any recommendations from Committees.</p>	<p>The following matters arose:</p> <p><u>Operations Committee</u></p> <p>Item 3 It was resolved to approve the updated Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Item 5 It was RECOMMENDED that the Monthly Payments from 04/02/2016 to 02/03/2016 be approved.</p> <p>Item 6 The Committee scrutinised the accounts and it was RECOMMENDED that the accounts for payment from Cashbooks 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the period 01/09/2015 to 11/02/2016 be approved.</p> <p>Item 8 It was RECOMMENDED that we accept the higher quotation for the repair of the Weir Panel and that the Town Council pays the balance.</p> <p>Item 10 Councillors discussed the Fire Risk Assessment for the Guildhall and RECOMMENDED that it be accepted and the actions implemented.</p> <p><u>Planning and Place</u> An amendment was accepted that the date on the enclosed Planning Minutes should say 17th March and not 26th February. Councillor M Adams declared an interest in Item 4b.</p> <p>Item 5 It was RESOLVED to write to Network Rail and copy in Sarah Wollaston, asking for previous proposals on the subject of improving safety on the Station Road bridge with the installation of an underpass and safer pavements. Councillor Paine raised the issue of the Atmos site plans, which he feels are not appropriate. This was referred back to the Planning Committee.</p> <p><i>Councillor Connelly left the meeting at this point and gave his apologies.</i></p> <p><u>People Committee</u></p> <p>Item 3 The recommendation was discussed and it was agreed that the WG could not become a sub-committee because that would limit its membership to one particular committee. It was therefore RESOLVED that it will continue as a WG but report to the Operations Committee instead of the People</p>

		<p>Committee because this is a more appropriate umbrella.</p> <p>Item 5 It was RESOLVED that a second defibrillator unit is purchased by the Town Council and located at the Seven Stars or in the nearby area, subject to further discussions with businesses.</p> <p>Item 6 Some councillors felt strongly that a beacon should be lit if possible and it was therefore RESOLVED that, subject to the equipment being available, the beacon lighting will go ahead.</p> <p>Item 9 It was RESOLVED to send a letter to Sarah Wollaston expressing concern regarding her use of language on the refugee issue.</p> <p>Item 10 Annual Town Meeting topics: a request was also made for a topic on homelessness.</p> <p>Item 11 Councillors expressed concerns that the costs of converting the new homeless shelter will have to be met by the community and that SHDC intends to hand over an empty shell. It was RESOLVED to write to SHDC to object to this and request that basic facilities such as separate male/female toilets, showers and a kitchen be installed.</p>
6	To receive a nomination for the Deputy Mayor from May 2016.	Councillor Rosie Adams was nominated to be the Deputy Mayor and this was noted.
7	To elect councillors to Committees and Link Councillors positions from May 2016.	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following nominations:</p> <p>Operations Committee: Councillors M Adams (Chair), Cohen, Boswell, Harper, Westacott MBE, Horsburgh and Paine</p> <p>Planning and Place Committee: Councillors R Adams (Chair), Paine, Hendriksen, Hodgson, Connelly, Whitty and Vint</p> <p>People Committee: Councillors Whitty (Chair), Connelly, Sermon, Piper, Simms, Vint and Hendriksen</p> <p>Link Councillors</p> <p>Business and Employment Councillor Simms</p> <p>Cultural Links Councillors Piper, Connelly and M Adams</p> <p>Elderly and Vulnerable People Councillor Horsburgh</p> <p>Young People Councillors Westacott MBE and Hodgson</p> <p>Heritage Councillor Boswell</p> <p>Open Space, Sports Provision and Leisure Councillors Whitty, Connelly, Piper</p> <p>Traffic and Transport Councillors Whitty and Simms</p> <p>Environment and Sustainability Councillor Hodgson</p> <p>An election was held to the Personnel Committee and the following councillors were elected: Councillors Westacott MBE (Chair), Hodgson, Simms and M Adams. Councillor Cohen will also sit on this Committee as Mayor.</p>
8	To receive an update about the Devon Highways Conference.	This was received.
9	To receive an update about the SW Tourism Conference.	This was received.
10	To note the minutes of the Travelwatch South West CIC General Meeting.	This was noted.

11	To note the Police Report.	This was noted.
12	To note the Minutes of the Tourism Partnership Meeting on 10 th March 2016.	These were noted.
13	To note the minutes of the Tourism/TIC Working Group.	This was noted.
14	To note the date of the next meeting on Monday 9th May 2016 at 7pm.	This was noted. The meeting ended at 9pm.

END

MAYOR